

MARVEL

MARVEL ZOMBIES

"For a zombie series,
Marvel Zombies:
Black, White & Blood
is thrillingly alive."

—AIP

BLACK, WHITE & BLOOD

AN ALL-NEW ERA OF **MARVEL ZOMBIES!**

Daredevil, Spider-Man, Moon Knight, Blade, the Punisher and many more are beset by ever-growing zombie hordes! A mad Reed Richards works in desperation. A lone warrior stands tall against a galaxy of undead. And the unstoppable X-Force faces its greatest foe yet! From New York City to a mystical forest full of gods and monsters to the now truly Savage Land, the plague has clawed its way everywhere — but in a brutal, bloodstained world, can hope survive? Or will creeping, gnawing, shambling horror win out at last? Find out as your favorite (and soon-to-be favorite!) creators tell the most haunting tales their minds can muster!

COLLECTING **MARVEL ZOMBIES: BLACK, WHITE & BLOOD #1-4**

BY GARTH ENNIS, ALEX SEGURA, ASHLEY ALLEN, GAIL SIMONE, ERICA SCHULTZ,
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PETE PANTAZIS, MATTIA IACONO, BRIAN REBER AND ESPEN GRUNDETJERN.

MARVEL
PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!





MARVEL ZOMBIES

BLACK, WHITE & BLOOD



MARVEL ZOMBIES

BLACK, WHITE & BLOOD

#1

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ARTIST
Rachael Stott

"Hope"

WRITER
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ARTIST
Javi Fernández

"Deliverance"

WRITER
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ARTIST
Justin Mason

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**"Juju and the Gift of
the Insect Bead"**

WRITER & ARTIST
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TRANSLATOR
Zack Davisson
LETTERER
VC's Ariana Maher

"Already Dead"

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ARTIST
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COLOR ARTIST
Pete Pantazis

**"Surprise,
Mother Strucker!"**

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COLOR ARTIST
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an Unkind Future"**

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COLOR ARTIST
Yen Nitro

**"The Last Ballad of
Beta Ray Bill"**

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ARTIST
Nelson Dániel

"Warpath"

WRITER
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ARTIST
Juan Gedeon
COLOR ARTIST
Dee Cunniffe

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"Strange-Ass Bedfellows"

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COLOR ARTIST
Brian Reber

"Last Man Standing"

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ARTIST
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"Shanna of the Dead"

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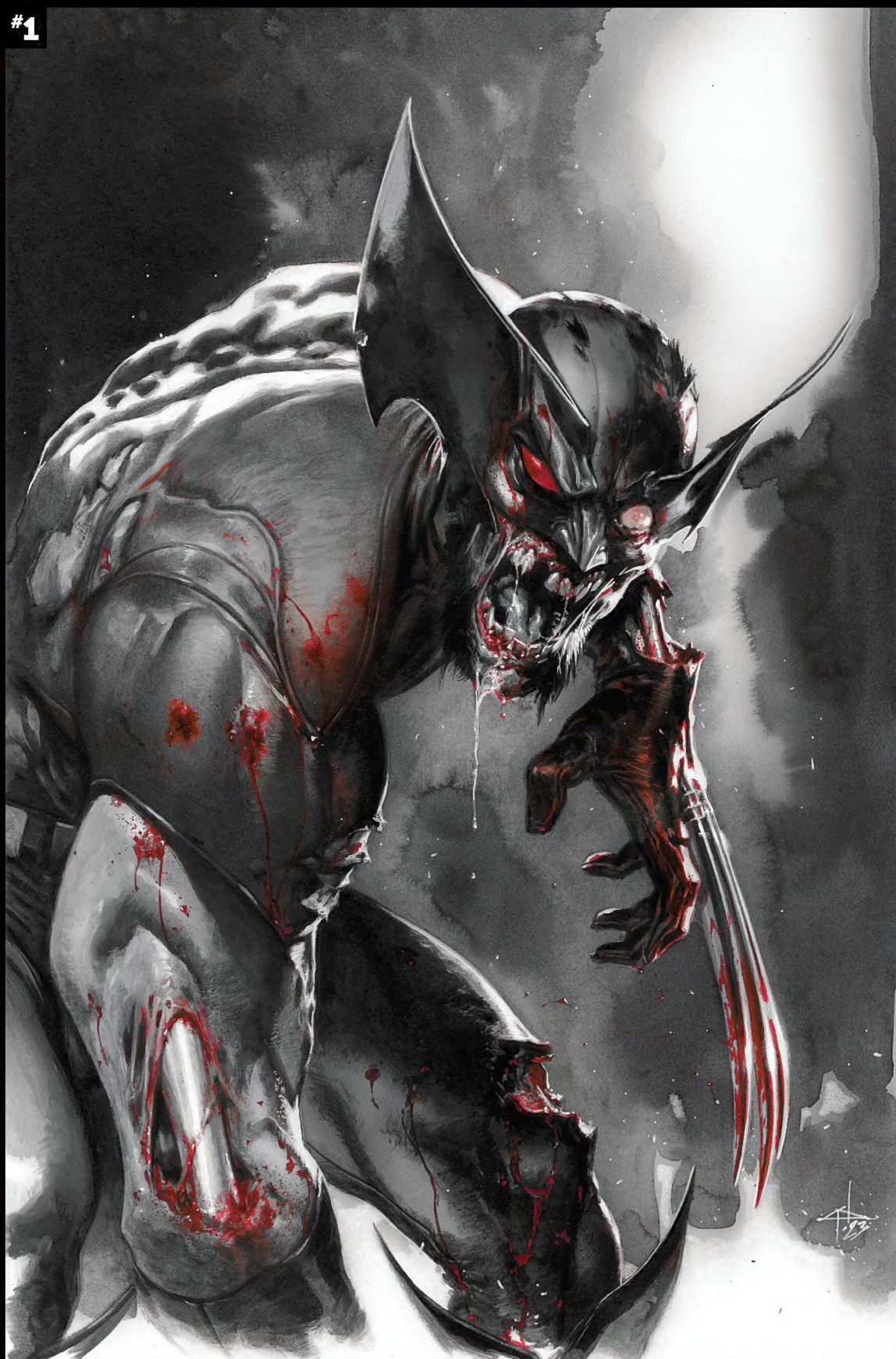
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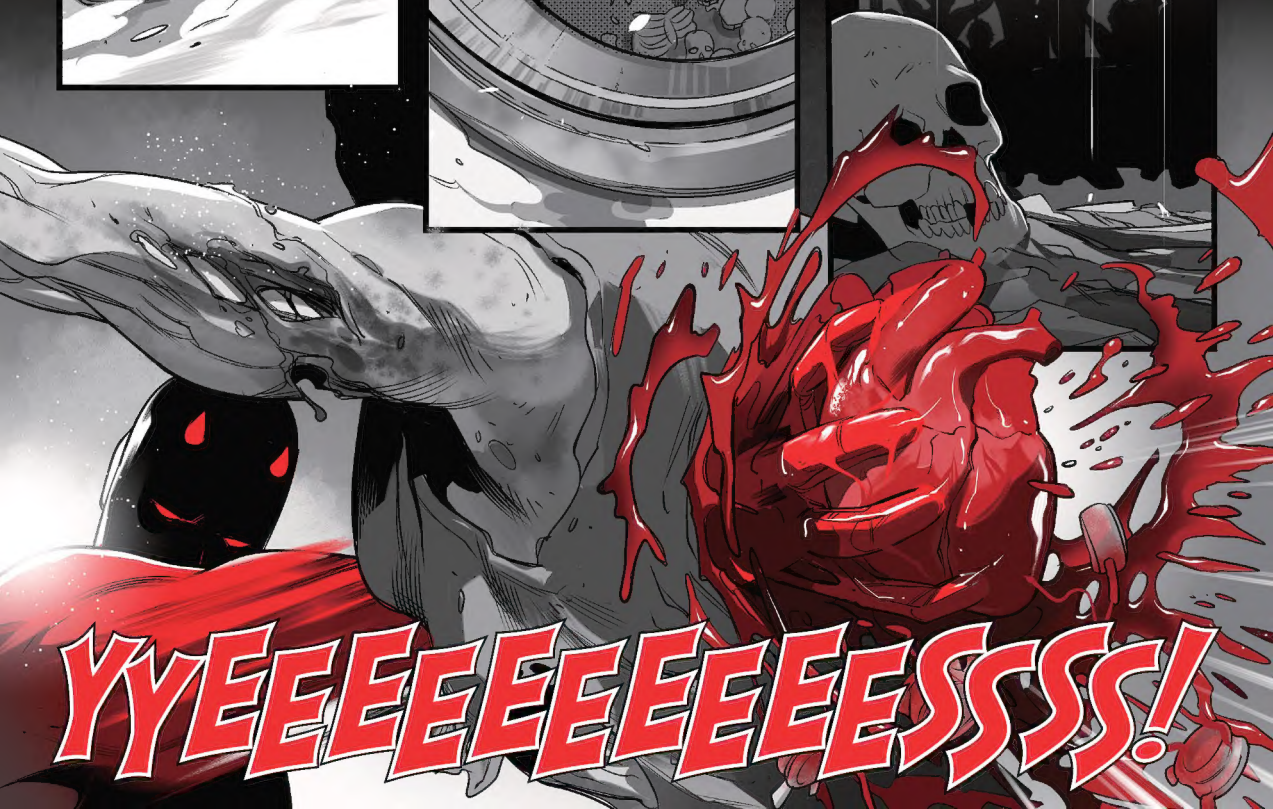
EDITOR: Tom Brevoort

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DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL

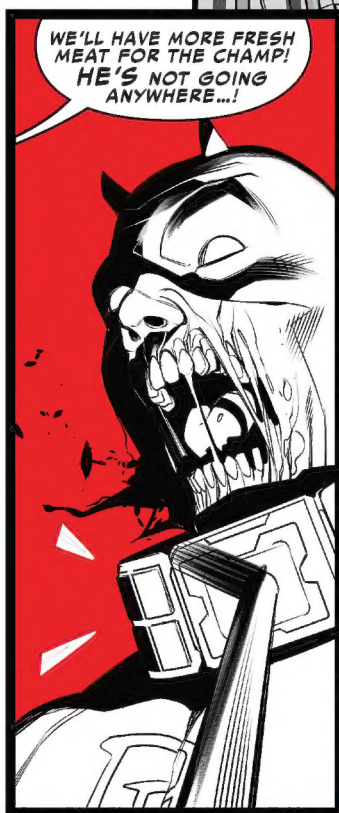


**DARE-DEVIL!
DARE-DEVIL!
DARE-DEVIL!
DARE-DEVIL!**



LADIES
AN' GENTS AN'
WHATEVER THE HELL
ELSE YOU ARE!
THE WINNER!

UNDEFEATED





NOT SURE.
THINK CAP SAY THE
JACKERS BOUGHT
HIM OUT EAST.

FAST FOR
ONE OF THESE
DAMN THINGS. HE
WAS A...THE GUYS
IN THE SUITS,
RIGHT...?

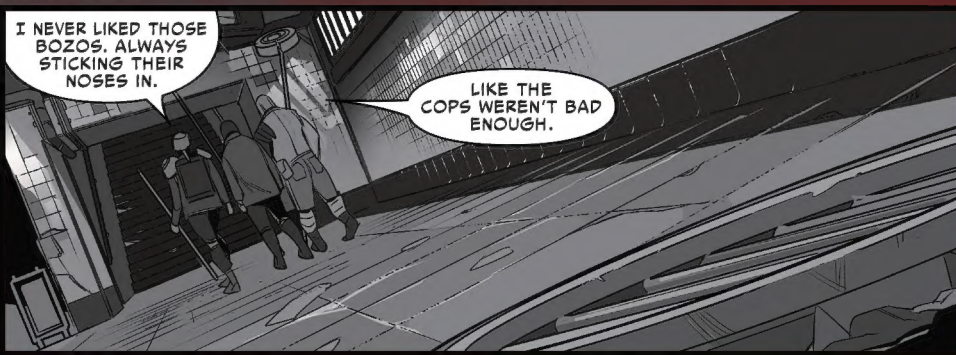
STAND
BACK.



OKAY,
GET THE LID
ON.



THANK
YOU



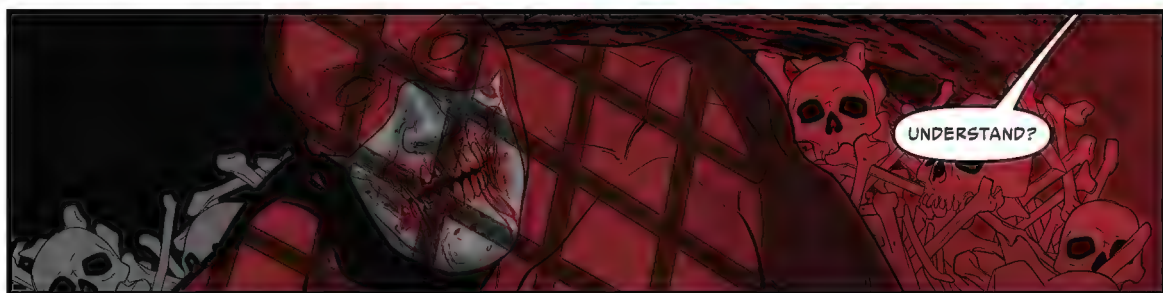
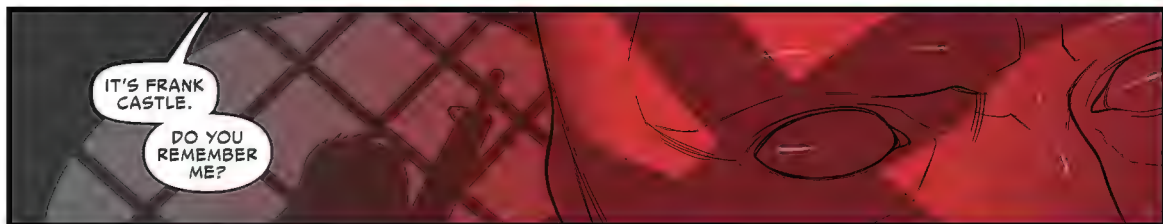


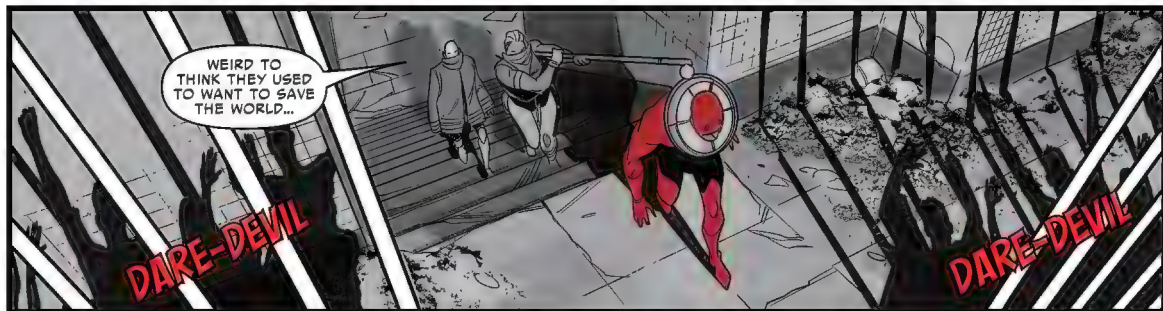
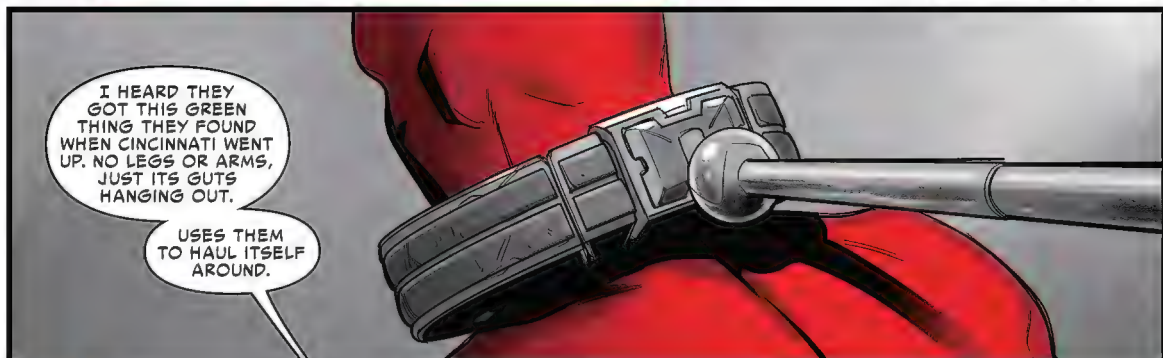
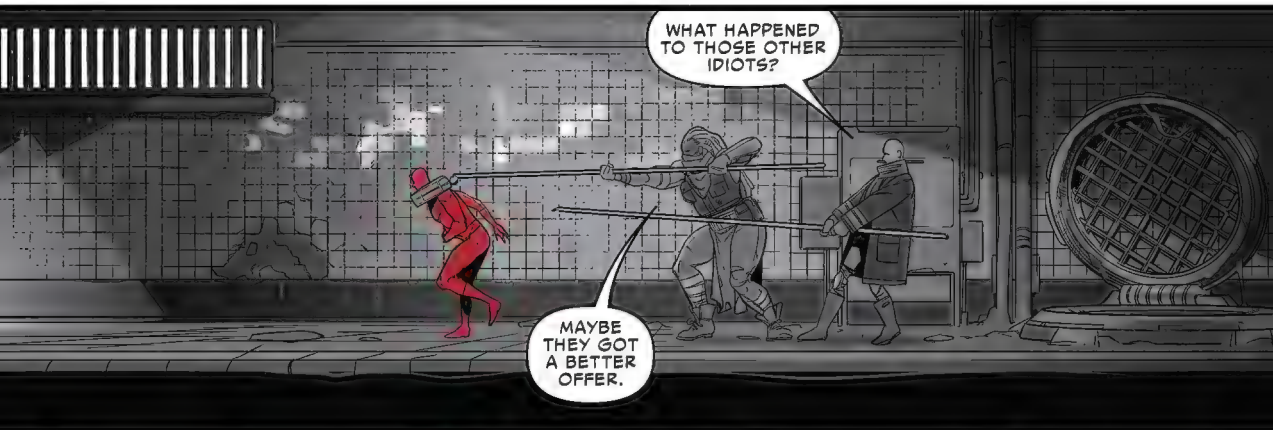
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DARE-DEVIL

DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL

DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL

MURDOCK?



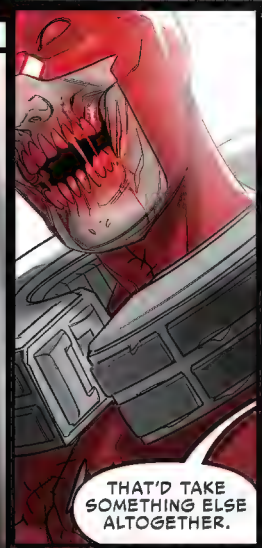




HEH.
TAKE MORE
THAN SOME FOOL
IN A COSTUME TO
SAVE THE WORLD
NOW.

DARE-DEVIL

DARE-DEVIL



THAT'D TAKE
SOMETHING ELSE
ALTOGETHER.

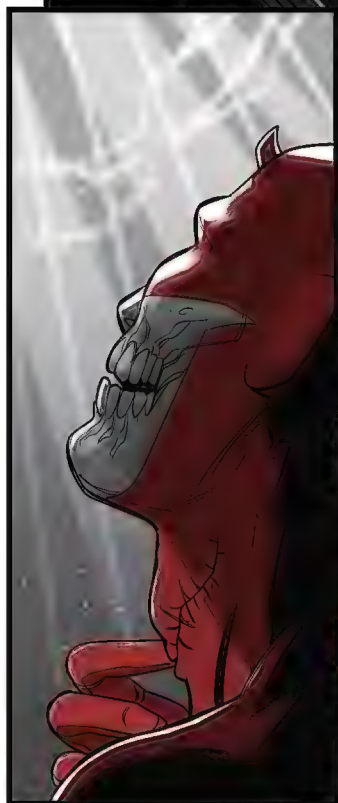


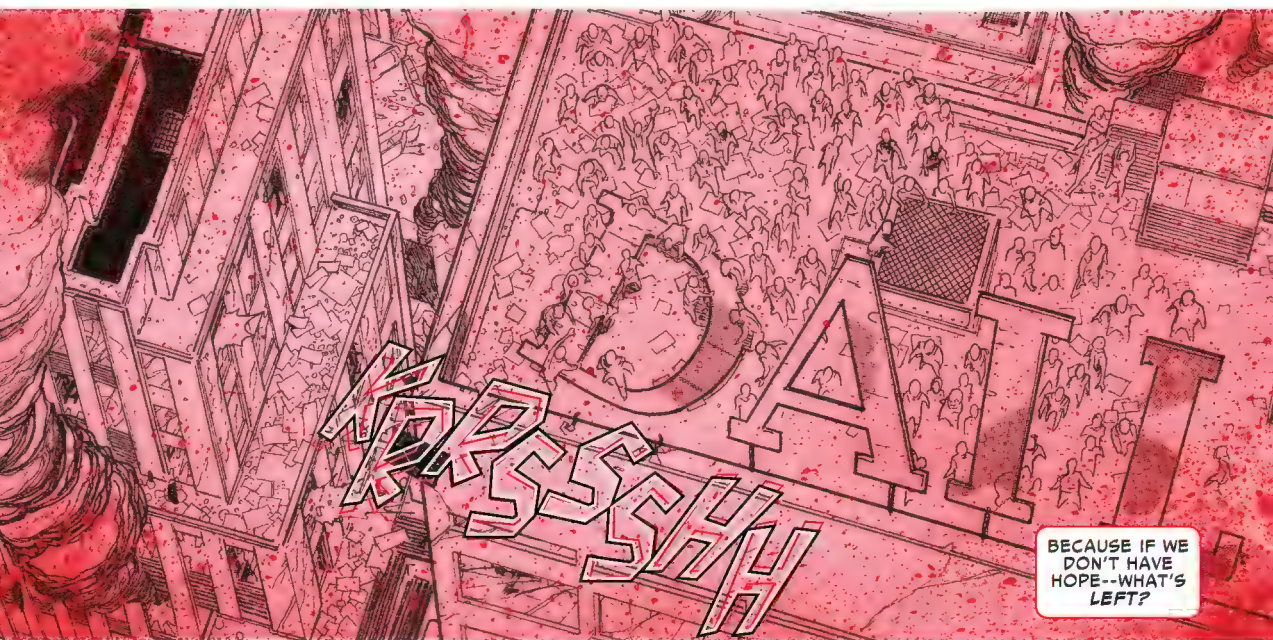
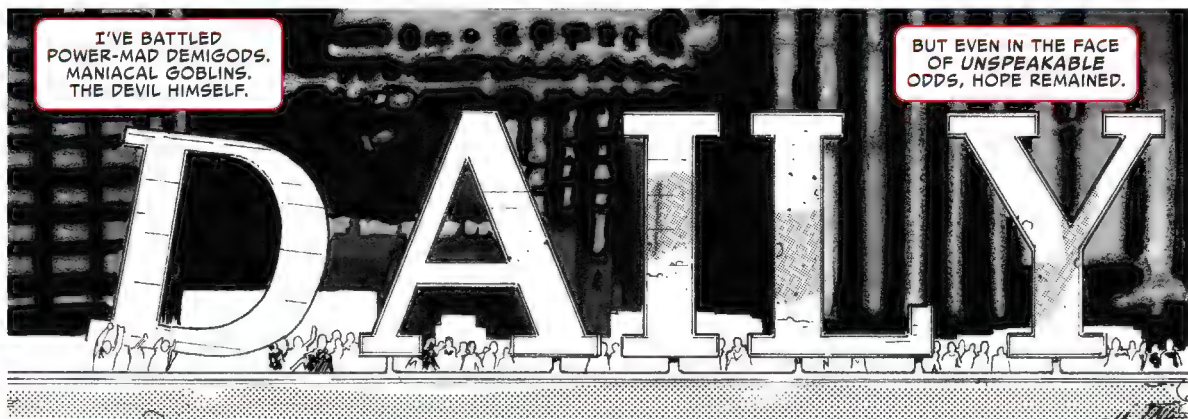
DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL
DARE-DEVIL



KINDA QUIET,
AIN'T HE? THEY
OVERFEED
HIM?

HE'LL
FIGHT. ALWAYS
DOES.





I'M HAVING A
REAL HARD TIME
HANGING ON TO
THAT RIGHT NOW.

♯HUFF♯ ♯HUFF♯
JUST KEEP EVERYONE
BACK, OKAY? I'LL
HOLD THEM OFF.

HOLD THEM
OFF? YOU CALL
THIS "HOLDING
THEM OFF"?

--CITY IS
COMPLETELY
OVERRUN
BY THESE
MONSTERS--

...PANDEMONIUM
IS THE WORD, BILL,
AND I SHUDDER
TO THINK...

GRAAAHHH!

NGGHHH...!

NEVER
CHANGE,
JONAH.

EVEN WITH MY MASK ON, THE STENCH
OF DEATH IS OVERPOWERING.

I KEEP WAITING FOR IT. FOR
THAT GLIMMER OF HOPE.

INSTEAD, I
SEE MORE
OF THEM.

THEY JUST
KEEP COMING.



JUST HOLD YOUR GROUND, ALL RIGHT? WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS.

JONAH'S PANICKED VOICE SENDS A CHILL THROUGH ME.

I'M SPENT, RUNNING ON INSTINCT.

BUT I'M THEIR ONLY CHANCE.



I THINK ABOUT AUNT MAY, MARY JANE.

I PRAY THEY'RE OKAY--THAT THEY'VE SOMEHOW GOTTEN TO SAFETY.

NO... NO...

B-BETTY? BETTY BRANT?

BETTY BRANT WAS JONAH'S SECRETARY.



MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHE WAS THE FIRST GIRL I LOVED.

BETTY... NO... OH GOD...

GRAHHH!



ROBBIE? YOU TOO? NO--

AIIIEERRGH!

SKRSH

ROBBIE ROBERTSON WAS THE FIRST PERSON WHO BELIEVED IN ME AT THE BUGLE. A TRUE FRIEND.



BUT IT'S NOT THEM. THEY'RE DEAD. REPLACED BY THESE HORRIBLE THINGS. MONSTERS.

AUNT MAY, MARY JANE, PLEASE BE OKAY. PLEASE.



THINKING OF THEM KEEPS ME GOING.

GIVES ME HOPE.

WATCH IT, GRUESOME! PLENTY OF SPIDEY TO GO AROUND!



THEY'RE EVERYWHERE. CLAWING. BITING. PUSHING. KILLING.

BUT I CAN BEAT THEM.

I HAVE TO BEAT THEM.



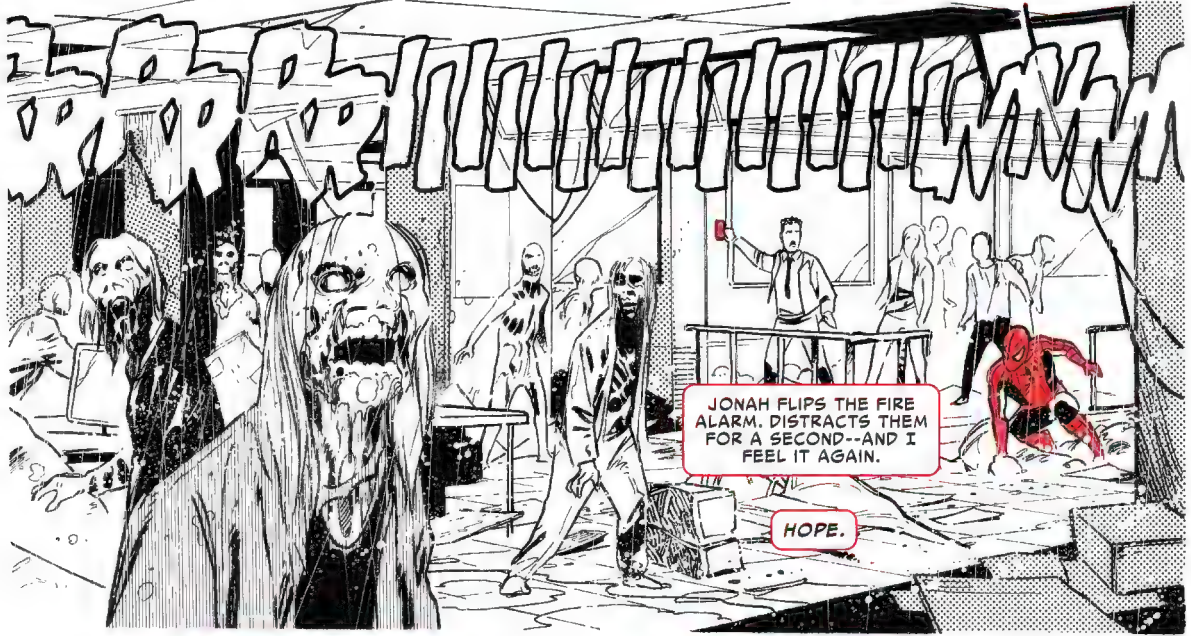
DEAR GOD...

THW

DON'T FREEZE UP ON ME, JJJ-- I'LL KEEP 'EM BUSY AS LONG AS I CAN.

I LOOK BACK AT MY FRIENDS--THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT. I SEE THE FEAR IN THEIR EYES.

I CAN'T LET THEM DOWN.



JONAH FLIPS THE FIRE ALARM. DISTRACTS THEM FOR A SECOND--AND I FEEL IT AGAIN.

HOPE.



I TRY THE AVENGERS ONE MORE TIME.

CAP--IRON MAN-- ANYONE... IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...STILL GOT SOME BYSTANDERS AT THE BUGLE-- WE'RE CORNERED... COULD REALLY USE A HAND GETTING THEM CLEAR...

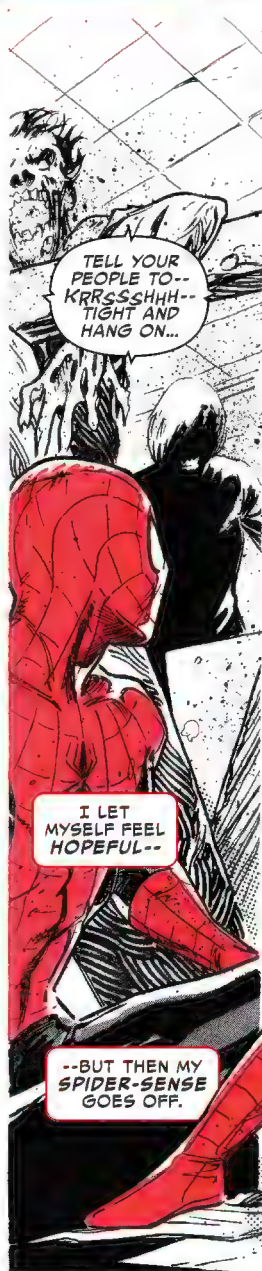
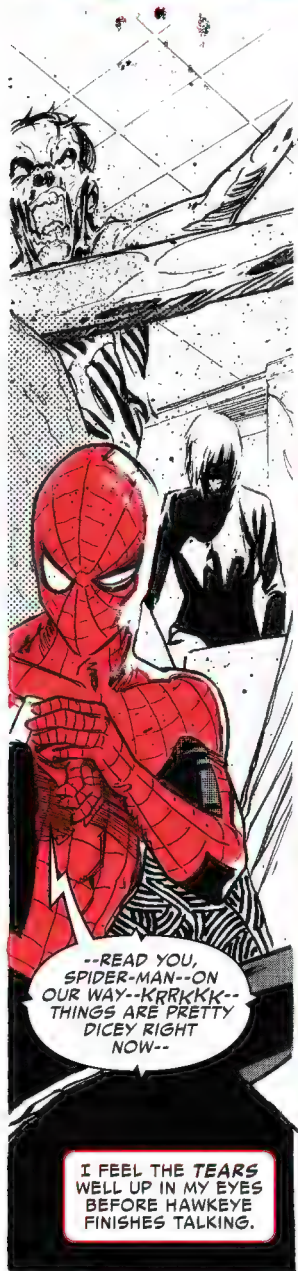
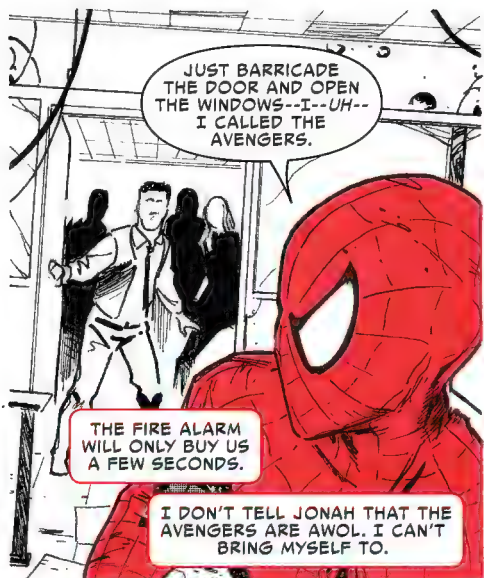


C'MON... C'MON. PICK UP. PICK UP. ANYBODY...

PLEASE.

I GET STATIC IN RESPONSE. A REMINDER THAT HOPE IS FLEETING.

AND MIGHT BE GONE.



A dramatic comic book panel showing Spider-Man lying on the ground in the foreground, looking up in shock. In the background, a man with white hair and a bloody, screaming face stands amidst the wreckage of a building. Other figures are visible in the background, some appearing to be in a state of panic or aggression. The scene is filled with debris and a sense of chaos.

WHUMP

CAN BARELY
TURN MY HEAD
TO SEE...SEE
WHAT HIT ME.

WHO
HIT ME.

I DON'T WANT
TO BELIEVE IT
AT FIRST.

MAY...AUNT
MAY?

NO...NOT
MAY. IT
CAN'T BE.

WHERE IS
HE? WHERE'S
PETER?

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE WITH
MY NEPHEW?

NO...
PLEASE,
NO...

AND IN THAT
MOMENT, I LOSE
ALL HOPE. I FEEL
A PART OF ME DIE.



THIS IS WRONG.
IT HAS TO BE A
MIRAGE.

A TRICK OF
SOME KIND.

NORMAN, OR
HARRY, THE
JACKAL.

HUUKKK.

SOMEONE FOUND OUT MY
IDENTITY, AND THEY'VE CREATED
AN ANDROID OR CLONE--

BUT IT
IS HER.

I KNOW IT IN
MY HEART.

HER PERFUME--I CAN
STILL SMELL IT,
THROUGH THE STINK
OF DEATH AND DECAY.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO MY
PETER?!

AND THAT BLOUSE, SHE'D
BOUGHT IT FOR HERSELF
A FEW DAYS AGO, AFTER
MONTHS OF SAVING.
SHE'D BEEN SO HAPPY.

KRAKOOON

ARGHHH!

I ALWAYS
KNEW YOU WERE
DANGEROUS...THAT
YOU'D HURT...MY
NEPHEW...

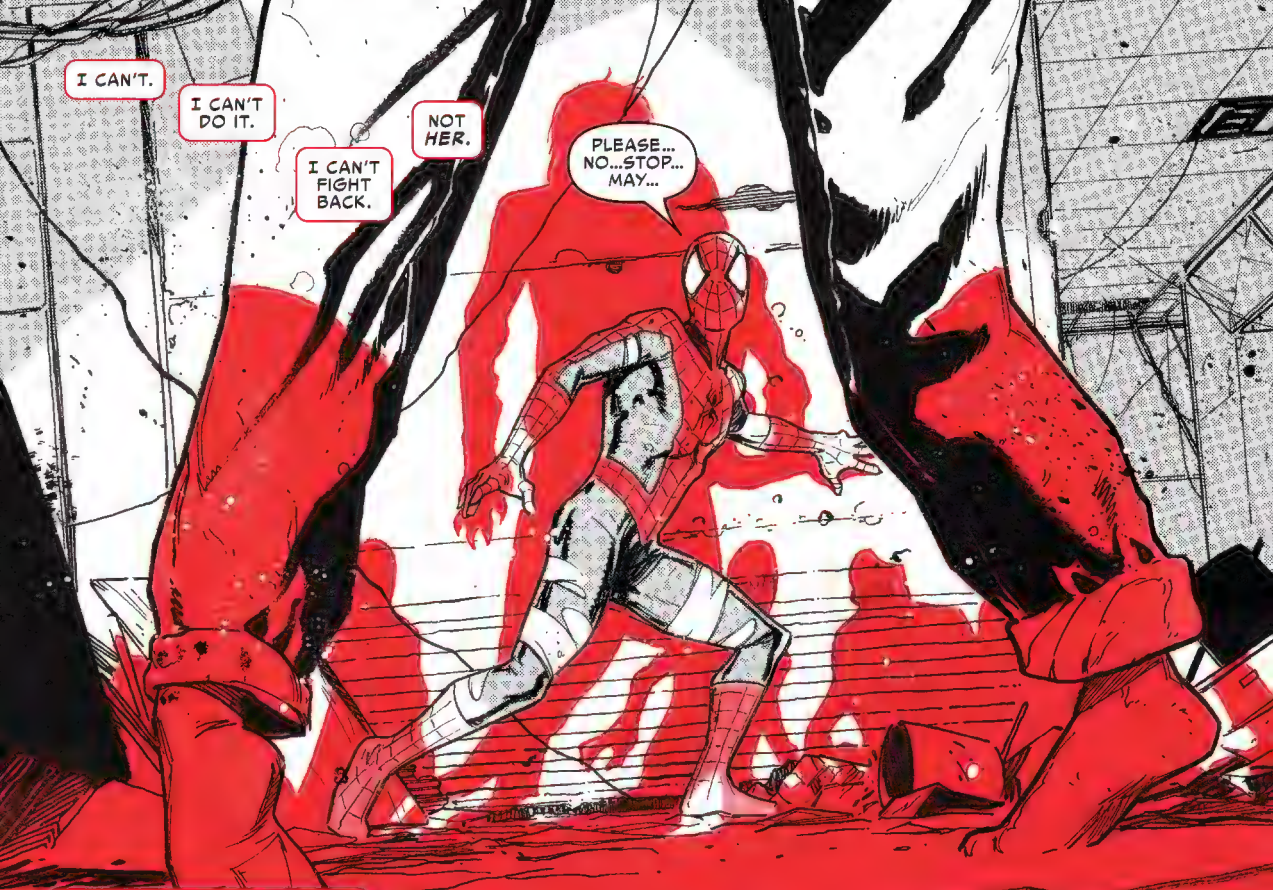
THWACK

HE'S
SUCH A
FRAIL...

...NICE...

BOOM

...BOY.



I CAN'T.

I CAN'T
DO IT.

NOT
HER.

I CAN'T
FIGHT
BACK.

PLEASE...
NO...STOP...
MAY...

AUNT MAY RAISED ME. WITH
UNCLE BEN AT FIRST, THEN ALONE.



I COOKED YOUR FAVORITE
BREAKFAST, PETER!

SHE GAVE ME
EVERYTHING
SHE COULD.

EVERY MINUTE.
EVERY TIME.

I SAW THE
OVERDUE BILLS,
AUNT MAY--WHAT
CAN I DO TO
HELP?

YOU'LL DO
NOTHING, YOUNG
MAN! LET ME WORRY
ABOUT THE MONEY. YOU
WORRY ABOUT YOUR
STUDIES!

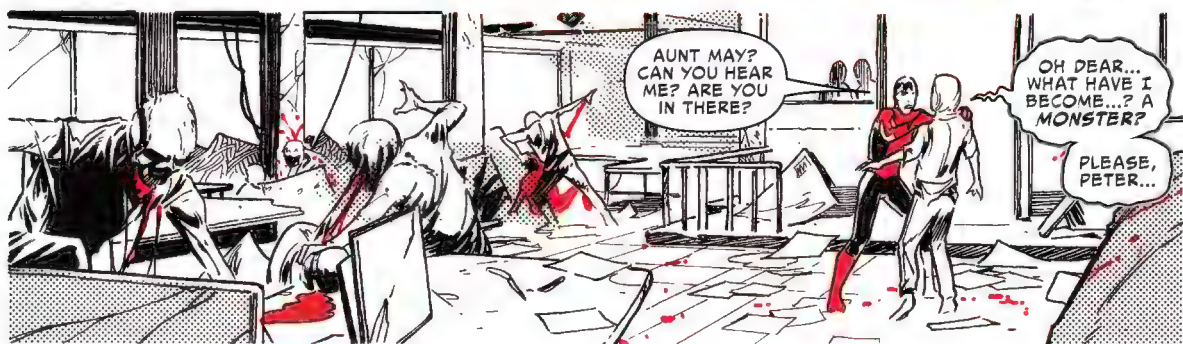
SHE'S A GOOD
WOMAN. THE BEST.

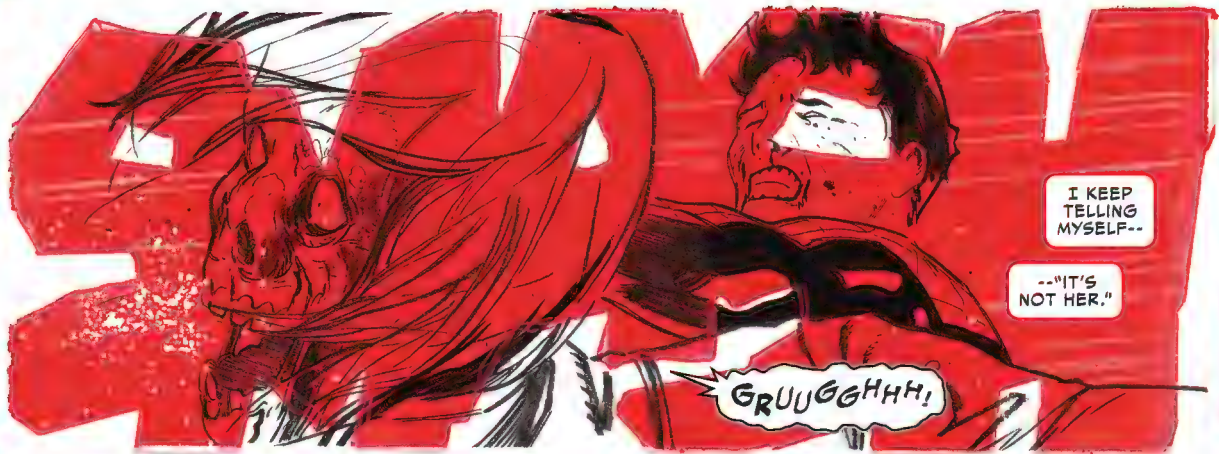
RGRAAH!

FWUMP

CRASH

FWUMP





I KEEP
TELLING
MYSELF--

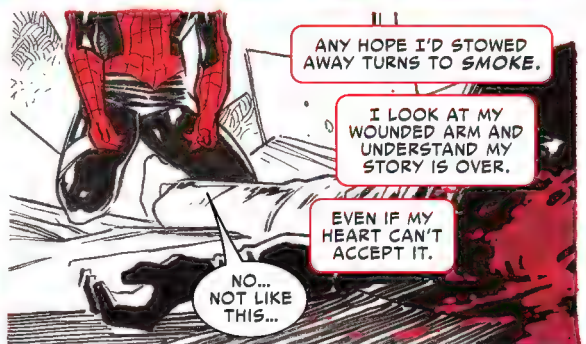
--"IT'S
NOT HER."

GRUGGGHH!



I REPEAT IT,
OVER AND OVER,
LIKE A MANTRA.

IT'S THE
ONLY WAY I
CAN DO IT.



ANY HOPE I'D STOWED
AWAY TURNS TO SMOKE.

I LOOK AT MY
WOUNDED ARM AND
UNDERSTAND MY
STORY IS OVER.

EVEN IF MY
HEART CAN'T
ACCEPT IT.

NO...
NOT LIKE
THIS...



DAMNED FOOL--
GONNA GET
HIMSELF KILLED
OUT THERE.

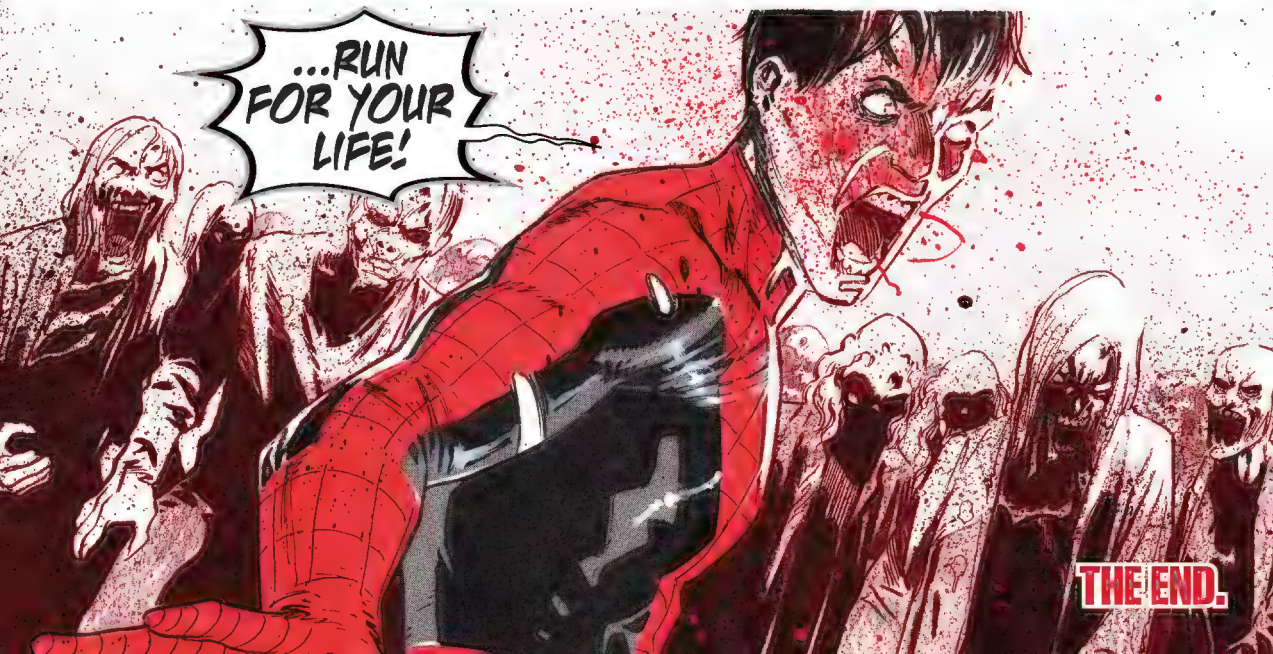
JONAH,
NO--LET HIM
GO!



C'MON, YOU
WEBBED MENACE--
GET IN HERE. YOU
DON'T NEED TO
PRETEND TO BE A
HERO ANYMORE--

...JONAH...
JONAH...
PLEASE...

...RUN...



...RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE!

THE END.

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
328 DAYS AFTER THE
ZOMBIE OUTBREAK.**







YOU ARE
A HARD MAN
TO FIND, MOON
KNIGHT.

YOU
NOT SO MUCH,
KHONSHU.

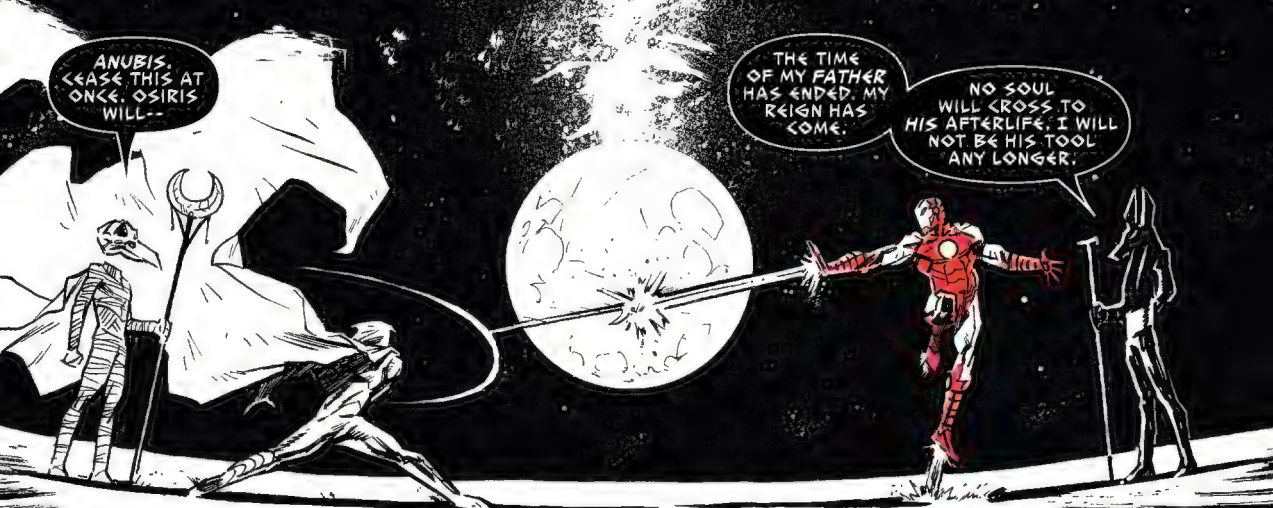


SINCE WHEN
CAN IRON MAN
SEE THE GODS? WHO
HAVE YOU GOTTEN
MIXED UP WITH,
STARK?



HELLO,
KHONSHU.

LOVELY NIGHT
FOR THE END
OF THE WORLD.
ISN'T IT?



ANUBIS, CEASE THIS AT ONCE. OSIRIS WILL--

THE TIME OF MY FATHER HAS ENDED. MY REIGN HAS COME.

NO SOUL WILL CROSS TO HIS AFTERLIFE. I WILL NOT BE HIS TOOL ANY LONGER.



THIS VIRUS IS A GIFT. YOU WILL SEE THAT, KHONSHU.



BUT FIRST, I NEEDED A WAY TO PREVENT YOU AND YOUR VESSEL FROM INTERFERING.



FORTUNATELY, I FOUND AN UNDEAD HOST MORE THAN WILLING.



ARGH!



AW, DOES THAT HURT?





HEY, ANUBIS.

THEY DON'T NEED ALL THEIR LIMBS TO BE ZOMBIES, RIGHT?

AS LONG AS THE VIRUS SPREADS, I GET A FREE PASS TO DO ANYTHING I WANT.



UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU.



WHEEZE!

CHOKE!

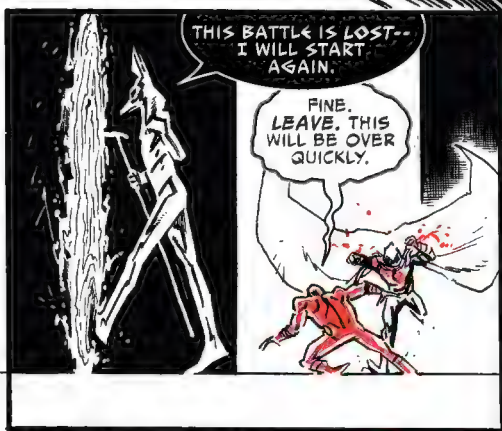
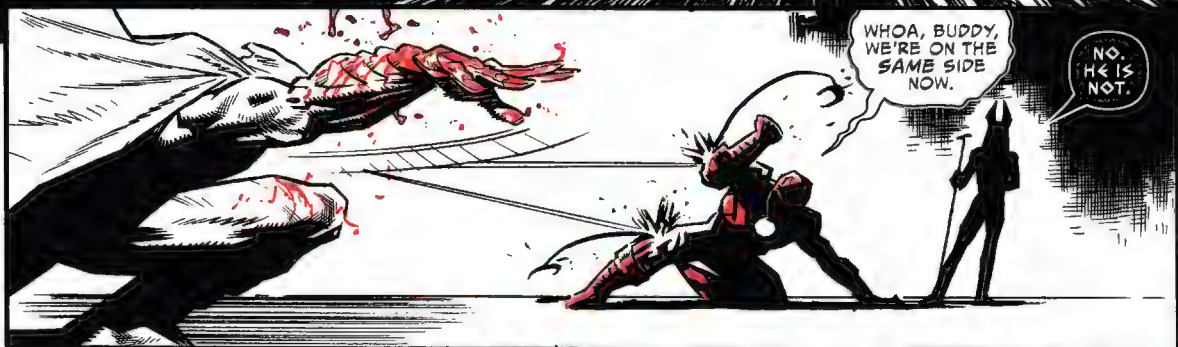
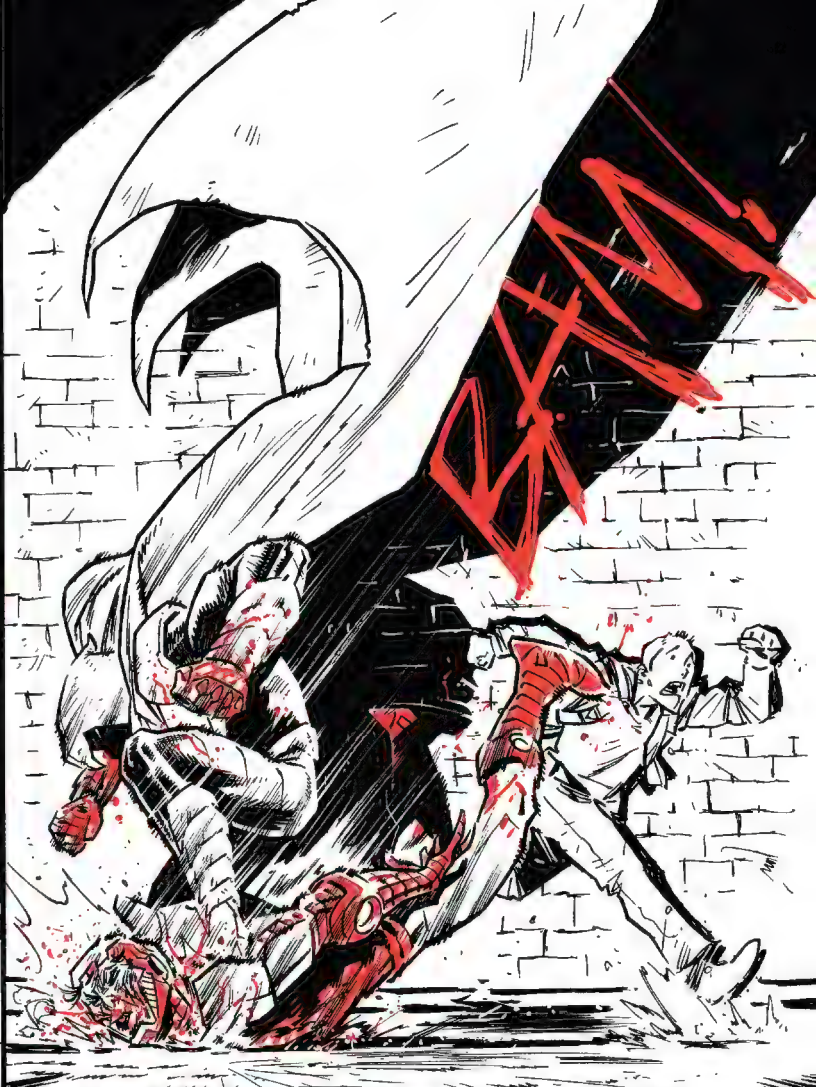


NO... NO...

WOULD YOU LIKE MY HELP NOW?













THEY DON'T TRULY
UNDERSTAND.
WHAT THEY MEAN
TO ME.

WITHOUT THEM,
I MIGHT HAVE
SIMPLY...DRIFTED
AWAY INTO MY
EQUATIONS AND
EXPERIMENTS.

I'VE FELT THAT
TEMPTATION. TO
FORGET TO WASH,
FORGET TO EAT.

FORGET HOW
TO SPEAK TO
ANOTHER
HUMAN BEING.

BUT THEY REMIND
ME, BY BEING SO
FULLY HUMAN...

...TO RETAIN A
LITTLE BIT OF
THAT PRECIOUS
HUMANITY
MYSELF.

WELL.

WE'RE
HERE,
TEAM.

WELCOME
TO THE
SPIRE.

HUH.

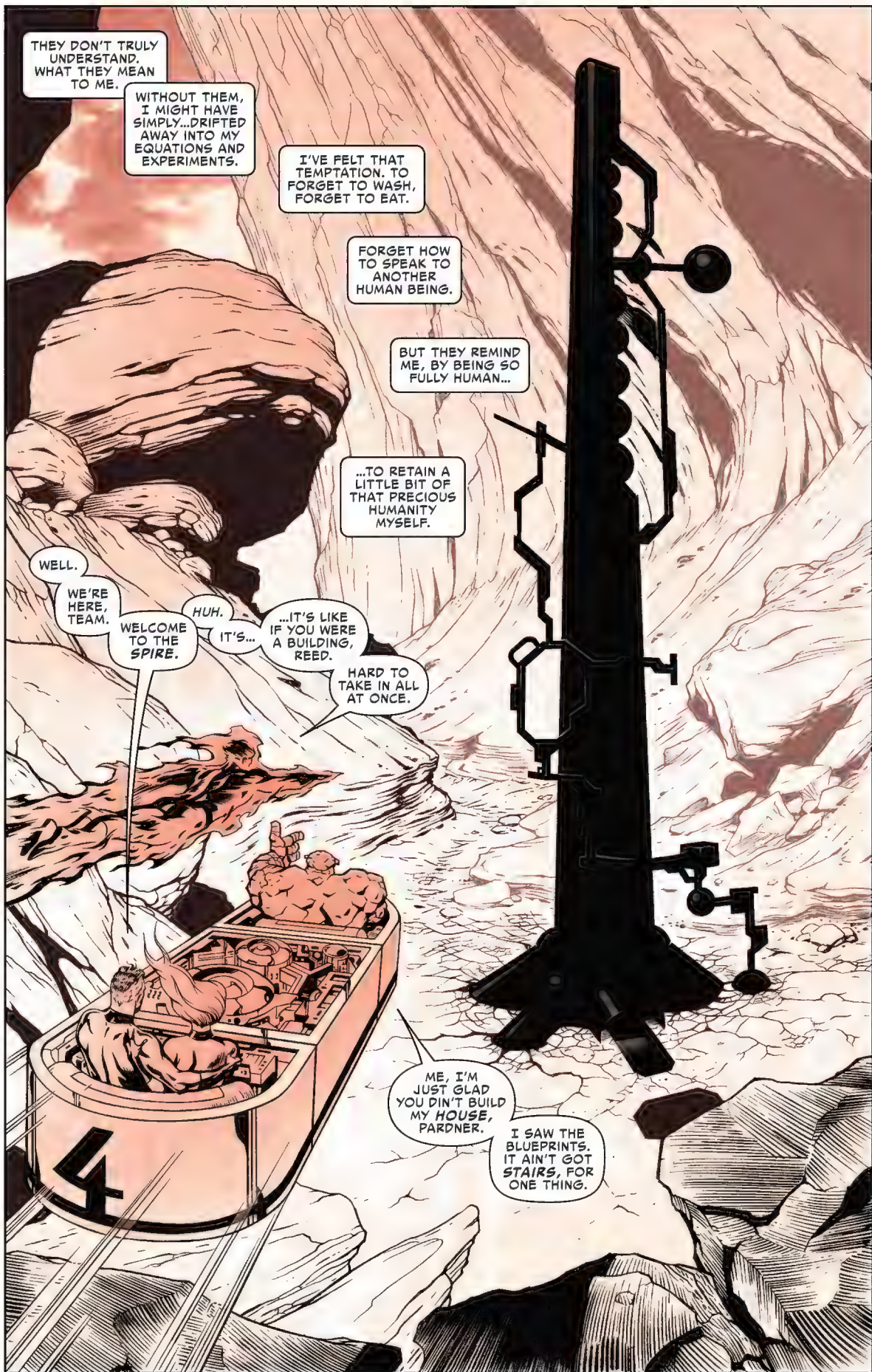
IT'S...

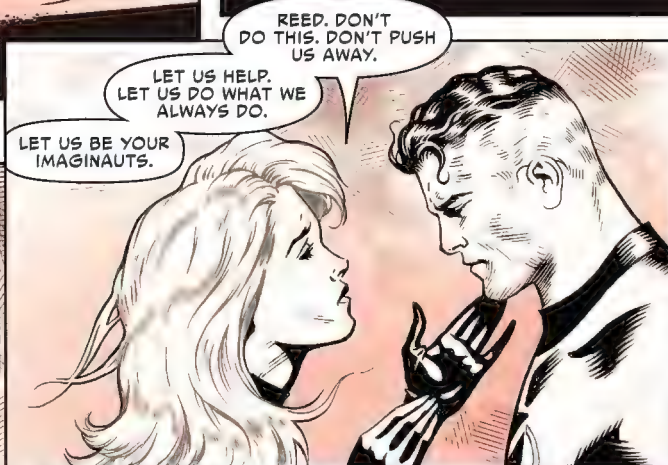
...IT'S LIKE
IF YOU WERE
A BUILDING,
REED.

HARD TO
TAKE IN ALL
AT ONCE.

ME, I'M
JUST GLAD
YOU DIDN'T BUILD
MY HOUSE,
PARDNER.

I SAW THE
BLUEPRINTS.
IT AIN'T GOT
STAIRS, FOR
ONE THING.







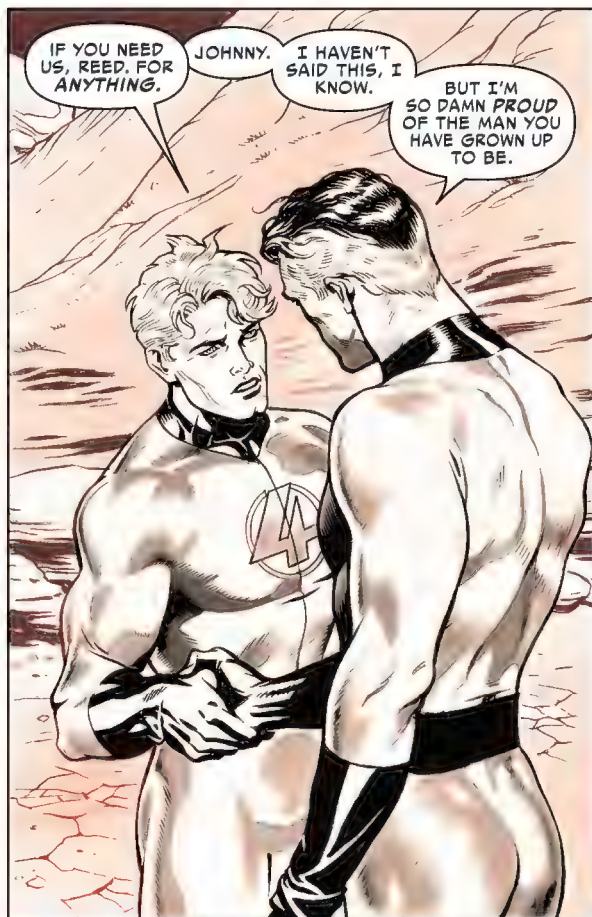
GONNA FEEL WEIRD NOT BEIN' YER CO-PILOT, STRETCH.

BEN.

I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS.

BUT I DIDN'T TRULY NEED THAT MANY.

BECAUSE I HAD THE BEST ONE.



IF YOU NEED US, REED, FOR ANYTHING.

JOHNNY.

I HAVEN'T SAID THIS, I KNOW.

BUT I'M SO DAMN PROUD OF THE MAN YOU HAVE GROWN UP TO BE.

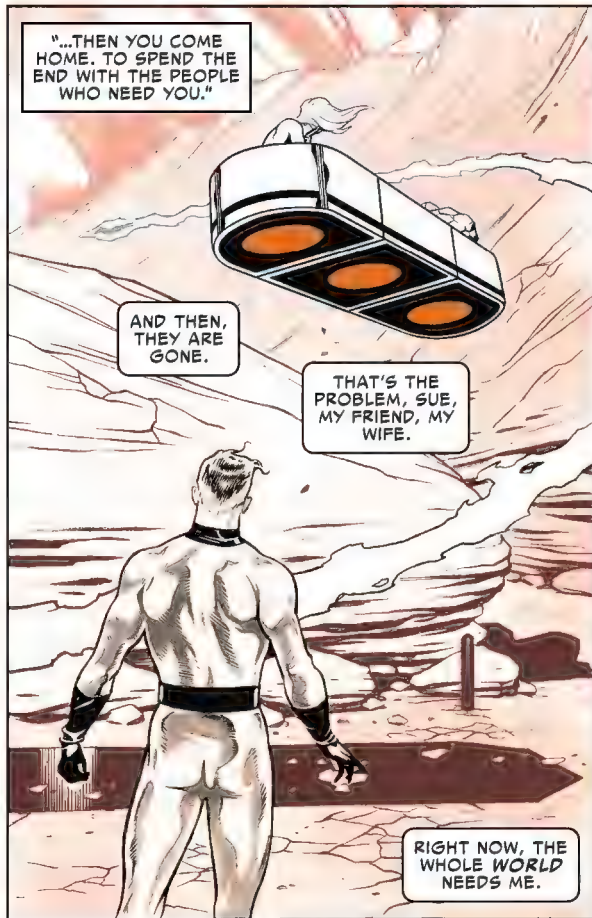


SWEETHEART.

MAKE THIS SACRIFICE WORTH SOMETHING. WILL YOU DO THAT FOR ME, PLEASE?

I'LL TRY, DARLING. I VOW IT.

OKAY. OKAY, GOOD. AND IF YOU CAN'T, IF YOU CAN'T STOP THE VIRUS AND YOU'RE CERTAIN...



"...THEN YOU COME HOME. TO SPEND THE END WITH THE PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU."

AND THEN, THEY ARE GONE.

THAT'S THE PROBLEM, SUE, MY FRIEND, MY WIFE.

RIGHT NOW, THE WHOLE WORLD NEEDS ME.



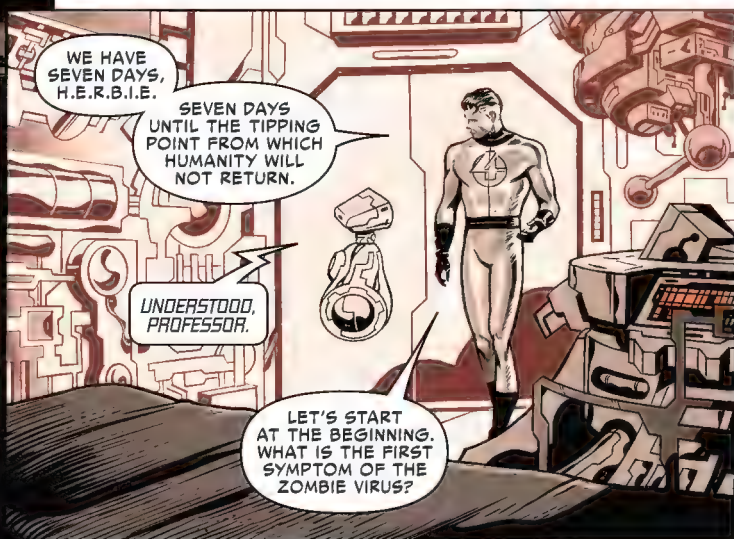
AND WHY IS IT, WITH EVERYTHING AT MY DISPOSAL...

...IT FEELS LIKE I WON'T BE ENOUGH?

THE SPIRE'S INTERIOR LABORATORY IS FULLY ONLINE. PROFESSOR RICHARDS. SIMULATIONS ARE RUNNING WITH OVER A BILLION VARIANT PARAMETERS.

THANK YOU, H.E.R.B.I.E.

PLEASE BEGIN RECORDING EVERYTHING.

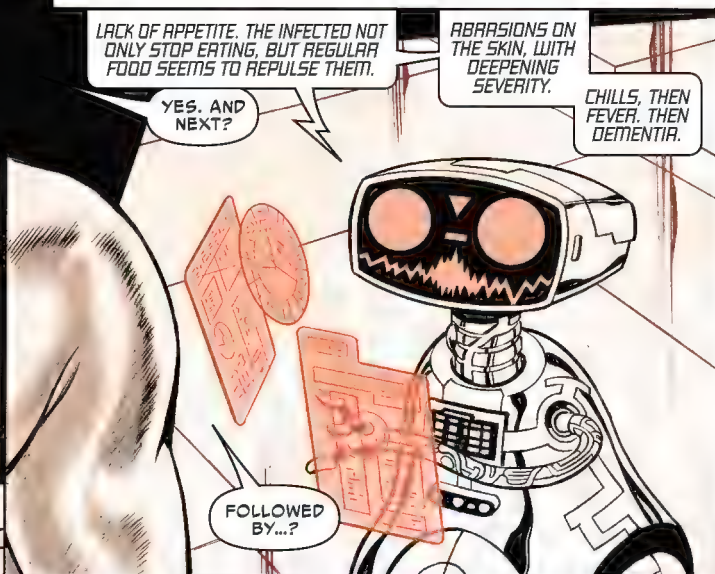


WE HAVE SEVEN DAYS, H.E.R.B.I.E.

SEVEN DAYS UNTIL THE TIPPING POINT FROM WHICH HUMANITY WILL NOT RETURN.

UNDERSTOOD, PROFESSOR.

LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING. WHAT IS THE FIRST SYMPTOM OF THE ZOMBIE VIRUS?



LACK OF APPETITE. THE INFECTED NOT ONLY STOP EATING, BUT REGULAR FOOD SEEMS TO REPULSE THEM.

YES. AND NEXT?

ABRASIONS ON THE SKIN, WITH DEEPENING SEVERITY.

CHILLS, THEN FEVER, THEN DEMENTIA.

FOLLOWED BY...?



"FOLLOWED BY," PROFESSOR? DEATH.

FOLLOWED BY DEATH.

A ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT FATALITY RATE.

YES. AND THEN IT GETS WORSE.



SHALL I LIST THE POSTMORTEM SYMPTOMS, PROFESSOR?

PERHAPS NOT JUST YET, H.E.R.B.I.E., THANK YOU.

LET'S GET TO WORK, SHALL WE?

I PROMISED SUE. I PROMISED MYSELF. AND I PROMISED HUMANITY.

I WILL STOP THIS PLAGUE, IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO DO SO.

SIX DAYS LEFT.

IF WE SURVIVE THIS, AS A PEOPLE...HISTORY WILL ASK:

"WHY DIDN'T REED RICHARDS BRING OTHER BRILLIANT MINDS TO COME ASSIST IN THE EFFORT? TONY STARK, LUNELLA LAFAYETTE, EVEN VICTOR VON DOOM."

IT WON'T BE UNDERSTOOD IN MY LIFETIME.

REED, I'M... I'M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT THIS TIME.

I HAVE LITERALLY TWO MINUTES A DAY SCHEDULED FOR COORDINATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, ANTHONY.

IT'S BECAUSE IT WOULD ONLY SLOW ME DOWN.

THIS CONVERSATION MEANS I DON'T SPEAK TO MY CHILDREN TODAY. PLEASE GET TO THE POINT, IF YOU WOULD.

OKAY. I UNDERSTAND, REED. MAYBE MORE THAN ANYONE.

SO, QUICK UPDATE.

REMEMBER, WE HAD SOME GALLOW'S HUMOR THAT THE LAST HUMAN BEING ON EARTH WOULD BE THE MOLE MAN?

"WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LAUGHED. HE AND HIS ENTIRE COLONY OF MOLOIDS WERE WIPED OUT."

"ONE INFECTED GOT THROUGH THEIR DEFENSES. ONE."

POOR HARVEY ELDER.

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO BE--

--ACCEPTED?

CARED ABOUT, I THINK. HE WANTED PEOPLE TO CARE.

I THINK IT'S LIKELY YOU MIGHT BE THE LAST OF US, TONY. YOUR ENTIRE POWER SET IS A HERMETICALLY SEALED ENVIRONMENT.

YEAH. WE TRIED RUSH-PRODUCING SUITS FOR THE NORMIES.

THEY WON'T WEAR THEM. THEY'RE AFRAID OF THEM.

REED, LISTEN. ABOUT WHAT THE SUPER-SKRULL DID--

I AM NOT DISCUSSING THAT, STARK.

PLEASE DON'T CALL AGAIN.

PLEASANTRIES AND GOSSIP.

WE HAVE EIGHT THOUSAND MINUTES LEFT AND HE WASTES TWO OF THEM WITH CHATTER.

I THOUGHT HE'D UNDERSTOOD.

**FIVE
DAYS
LEFT.**

IT'S HAPPENING,
JUST AS I SAID IT
WOULD, IN MY
FAMILY'S ABSENCE.

THE **SPIRE**
DELIBERATELY HAS
NO WINDOWS, NO
BOOKS, NO MUSIC.

AND I AM
ALREADY
FORGETTING
WITHOUT
THEM.

GOOD
MORNING,
PROFESSOR.

YOU HAVE TEN
MINUTES TO EAT. I'LL
SET THE TIMER.

THE HOT BEVERAGE
IS MADE TO LOOK
LIKE COFFEE.

IT IS NOT
REMOТЕLY
COFFEE.

THE FOOD IS
INHUMANELY
BLAND.

WHEN FOOD IS
ATTRACTIVE AND
TASTY, HUMANS LOOK
FORWARD TO IT. THEY
THINK ABOUT IT. THEY
COUNT THE HOURS
BETWEEN MEALS.

I AM
FORGETTING.
MY MIND IS
SO FULL, SO
FOCUSED ON
THE TASK...

I WOULD FORGET
THINGS LIKE
EATING, SLEEPING,
BATHING.

SO I CREATED
AND PROGRAMMED
H.E.R.B.I.E. TO
REMEMBER FOR ME.

TOWEL,
PROFESSOR?

BUT THERE
IS ONE THING
ABOUT THE
ISOLATION.

I SHOULD FIND IT
HORRIFYING, BUT
I SIMPLY CANNOT
SPARE THE BRAIN-
POWER TO CARE.

I FORGET TO
ARREST MY
PLIABILITY.

I FORGET TO
CONSOLIDATE
MY FORM INTO
SOMETHING
RESEMBLING THE
ME I USED TO BE.

BEFORE THE
INCIDENT.

BEFORE THE
COSMIC RAYS.

FOUR DAYS LEFT.

THE RAYS.

THE COSMIC RAYS.

NO. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. MY METABOLISM, IT RESISTS NEARLY EVERY VIRAL INFECTION KNOWN TO MAN, YOU SEE?

AT THE VERY LEAST, IT SLOWS THEM TO A CRAWL.

WE EXPOSE THE POPULACE, THE ENTIRE POPULACE, TO COSMIC RAYS.

BUT, PROFESSOR, THE RAYS' EFFECTS ARE UNPREDICTABLE!

BY THE THIRD WAVE OF FIGURES, I'D BEEN CUT OUT ENTIRELY.

ALL THE FIREPOWER OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMPUTERS...

...AND WE'RE GOING TO SAVE EARTH WITH BUNSEN BURNERS AND PETRI DISHES.

I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE UNPREDICTABLE ALL MY LIFE, H.E.R.B.I.E.

CANCEL ALL MEALS AND SLEEP FOR THE NEXT 48 HOURS.

WE'RE GOING TO SAVE HUMANITY.

IN OUR EARLY DAYS, THERE WAS AN FF TOY LINE. THE OTHERS SOLD RECORD-BREAKING NUMBERS, WHILE MY ACTION FIGURE SAT ON THE SHELF, UNBOUGHT.

NOW, WHY DID I THINK OF THAT, I WONDER?

PROFESSOR, INCOMING CALL FROM THE AVENGERS SATELLITE NETWORK.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE CALLING TO WISH YOU GOOD NIGHT.

... I'LL CALL THEM BACK.

PROFESSOR...

I'LL CALL THEM BACK.

THREE DAYS LEFT.

YOU'VE LOOKED BETTER, REED. TELL ME YOU'RE OKAY.

TELL ME WE'RE NOT PUTTING THE WORLD'S ENTIRE DWINDLING SUPPLY OF HOPE IN THE RUBBERY FINGERS OF A MAN WHO'S LOST IT.

ANTHONY, LISTEN TO ME.

I'VE DONE IT.

YOU'VE FOUND A CURE?

IT'S NOT A CURE, ANTHONY. THERE IS NO CURE. THE INFECTED ARE GONE, A LOST CAUSE. WE HAVE TO FACE THAT.

IT'S A VACCINE.

IT'S SMALL AND PETTY. BUT I IMAGINE MY ACTION-FIGURE SALES WILL TAKE A SIGNIFICANT JUMP AFTER THIS.

I WANT YOU TO DOWNLOAD H.E.R.B.I.E.--HE HAS ALL THE INFORMATION TO START PRODUCTION.

AND THEN I'M GOING HOME TO BE WITH MY FAMILY.

REED.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T NOT SAY THIS. YOU DESERVE SO, SO MUCH BETTER.

IT WAS THE SUPER-SKRULL, REED.

"HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST A-LEVEL THREATS TO GET THE VIRUS."

"THE FF FOUGHT HIM."

"YOU, REED. YOU WERE THERE."

"YOU WON THE BATTLE."

"BUT--"

"BUT THE WORLD LOST THE FANTASTIC FOUR."



AND THEN,
THEY WERE
GONE.

ONE DAY LEFT.

DOOM.
PUPPET
MASTER.
GALACTUS.

I FOUGHT
THEM ALL
AND WON.

AND HERE I WAS
COMPLETELY RENT
ASUNDER BY AN
UNEXPECTED FOE.

GRIEF.

LOSS OF
EVERYONE
I LOVE.

I'M PLIABLE. BUT
IF STRETCHED TOO
FAR, I BREAK.

AND I WAS
STRETCHED
TOO FAR.

TOO FAR
BY MILES.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR
PREPARED SUPPER,
PROFESSOR.

I'M
NOT HUNGRY,
H.E.R.B.I.E.

YOU'LL CLEAN
UP THE SPIRE
WHEN...WHEN IT'S
TIME, WON'T
YOU?

IT WILL BE
MY HONOR,
SIR.

MY METABOLISM
SLOWS VIRUSES
TO A CRAWL.

BUT
NOT TO
A STOP.

I'M
GOING TO MISS
THE UNIVERSE,
H.E.R.B.I.E.

YES,
SIR.

WELL.
IT'S TIME.

LET'S GO
EXPLORING.

THE END.

It's been nearly four centuries--
and countless worlds--since all
this started...

...with no end
in sight.

SKUTTLEBUTT,
CAN'T YOU GO ANY
FASTER?

I'M ALREADY PUSHING
MYSELF BEYOND
RECOMMENDED LIMITS,
BILL.



I'd received a distress call
from my oathbrother, Thor.

The Realm Eternal was
under attack from
invaders I'd never seen
nor heard of before.



The Asgardians
were being
overrun.

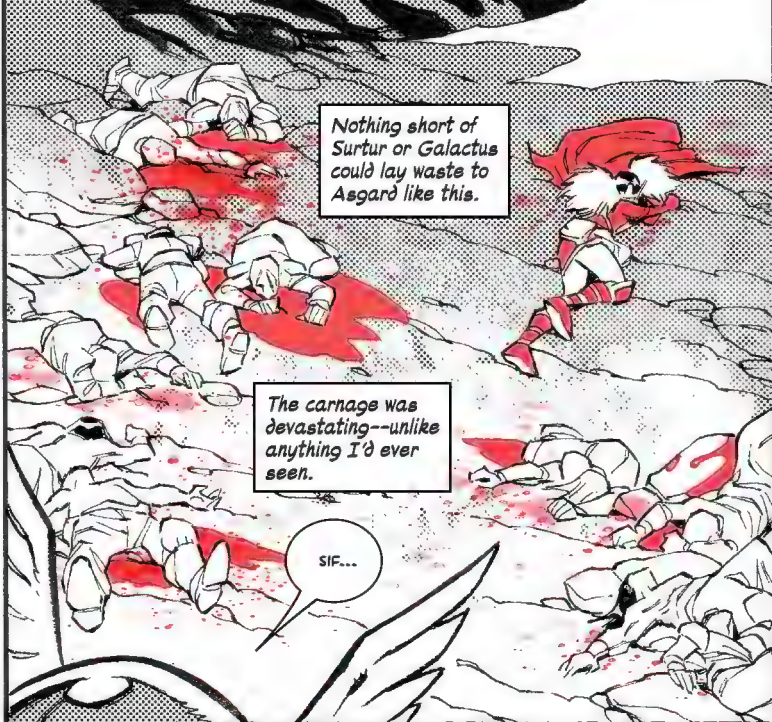
Who knew how
much time they
had left.



I lost my people.
I lost Korbin.*

On my life, I
would not let
Asgard fall.

*SEE THOR #337! --AB



SIF!



Before my eyes,
my worst fears
were made real.

They'd already
been turned...



...but into what,
I had yet to discover.



THOR...
AVENGERS...
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
HERE?

WHAT
CAN I DO
TO HELP
YOU?

YOU CAN
HOLD STILL,
BUB.



SNIKT



HAVE AT THEE!

There was no honor
in their efforts...

...just a
hunger.



GRAARR!

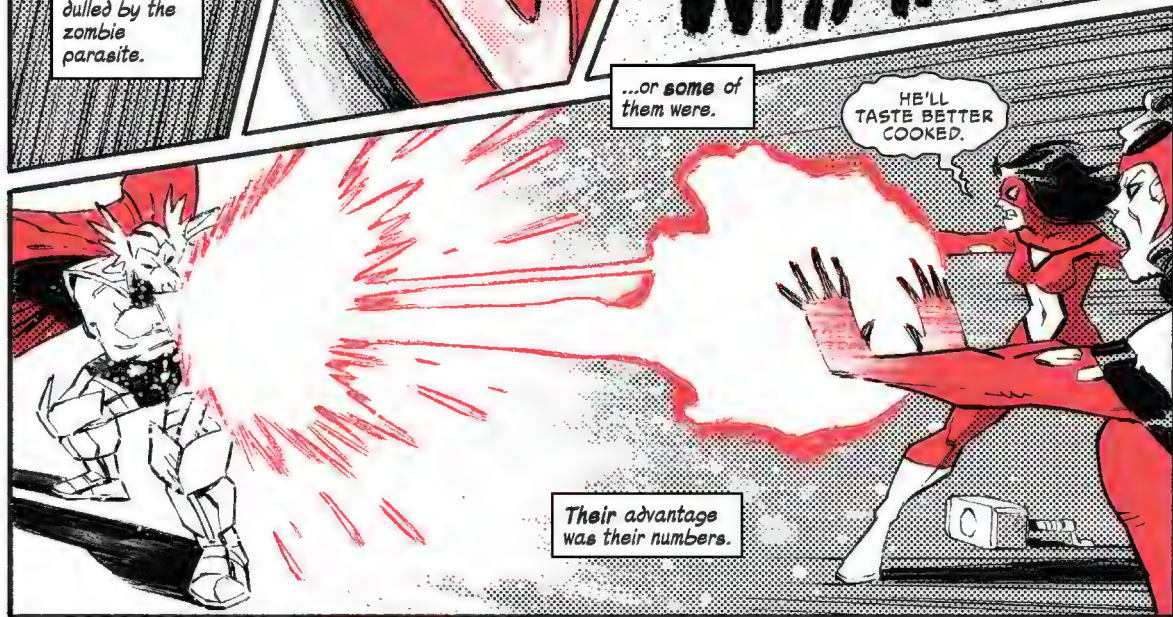
My advantage
was that their
senses were
dulled by the
zombie
parasite.



Their attacks
were clumsy
and slow.

They were
easily pushed
back...

WHAM!



...or some of
them were.

HE'LL
TASTE BETTER
COOKED.

Their advantage
was their numbers.



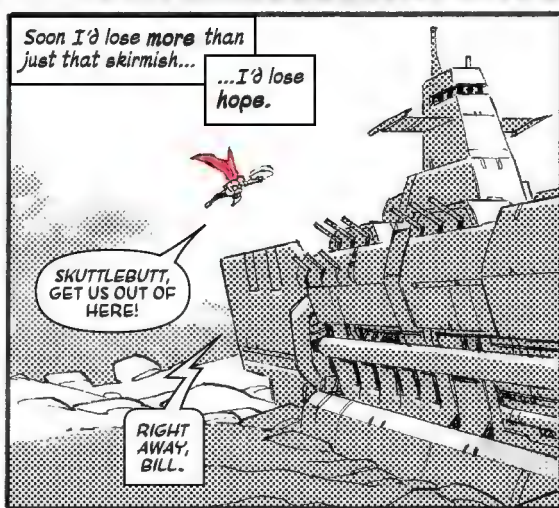
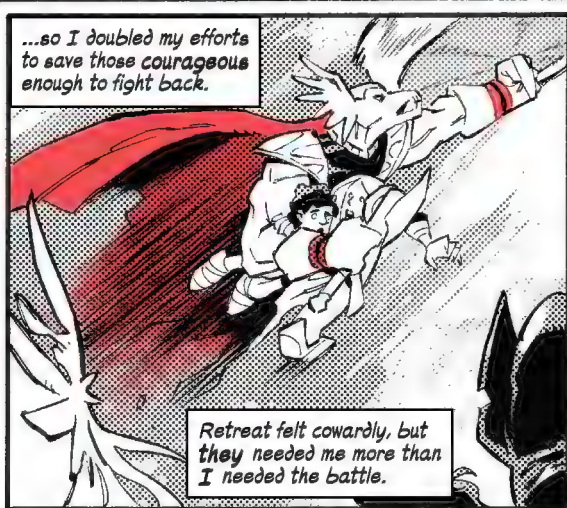
My enhanced Korbinite physiology made it impossible for them to transform me into the abominations they'd become.

But they would not stop trying.

YOU CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER, BILL...

I thought about giving up and letting them take me...

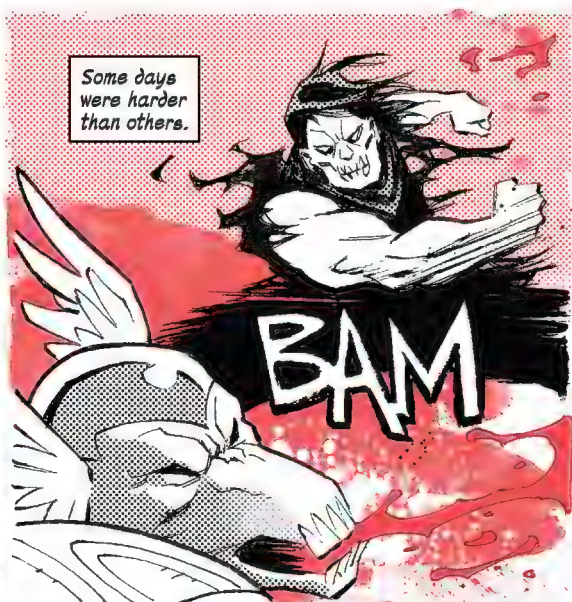






The pathogen spread to every world I knew and even some I didn't know at all.

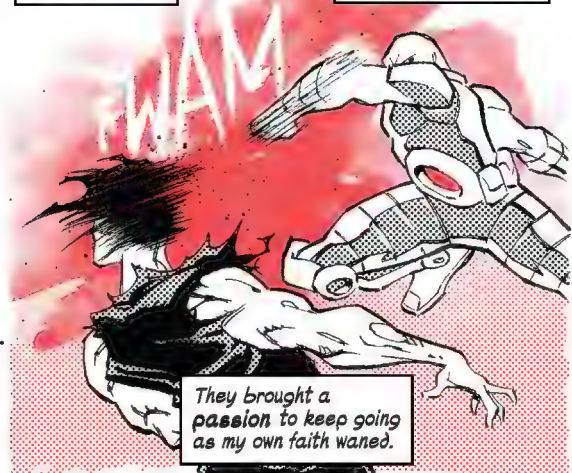
Wherever we went, lives were corrupted.



Some days were harder than others.

Still, there were allies gained of all stripes.

The best of every world joined our fight.



They brought a passion to keep going as my own faith waned.



And the survivors we rescued reminded me that life would go on.

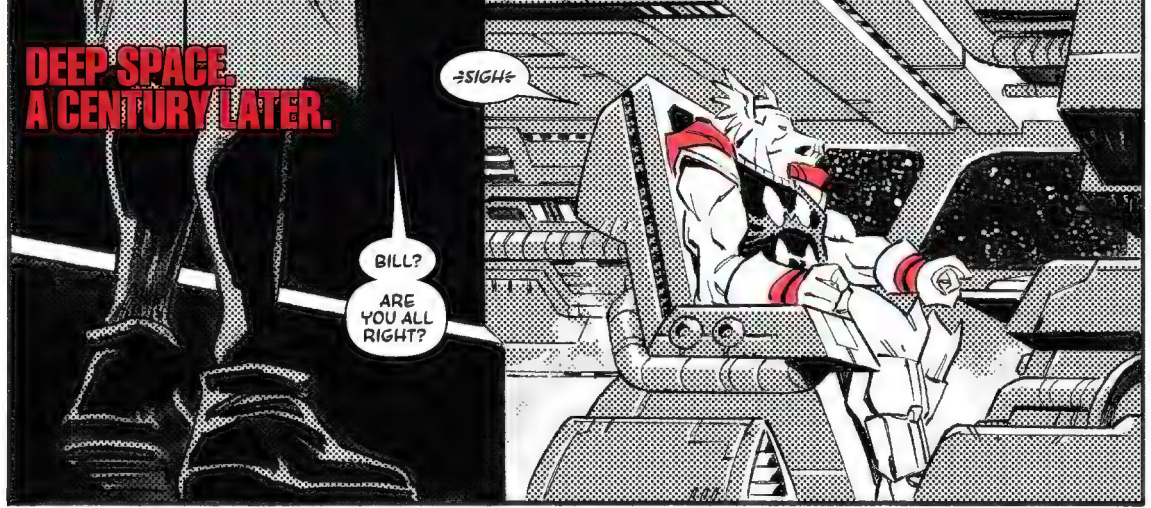


I'd remind myself of that...



...as more and more worlds fell.

**DEEP SPACE.
A CENTURY LATER.**



~SIGH~

BILL?
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?



YOU DIDN'T
COME TO DINNER,
AND MOTHER WAS
WORRIED.

AREN'T YOU
HUNGRY?

YOU
CAN HAVE
MY RATIONS,
EGOZ, I'LL
BE FINE.

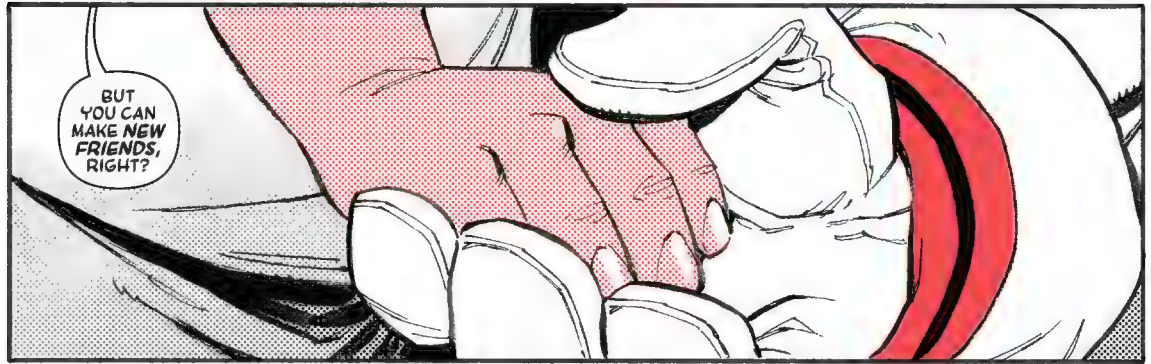


THEN WHAT'S
WRONG?

I...
I MISS MY
FRIENDS.

WHERE
ARE THEY?

THEY
PASSED AWAY
LONG AGO.



BUT
YOU CAN
MAKE NEW
FRIENDS,
RIGHT?



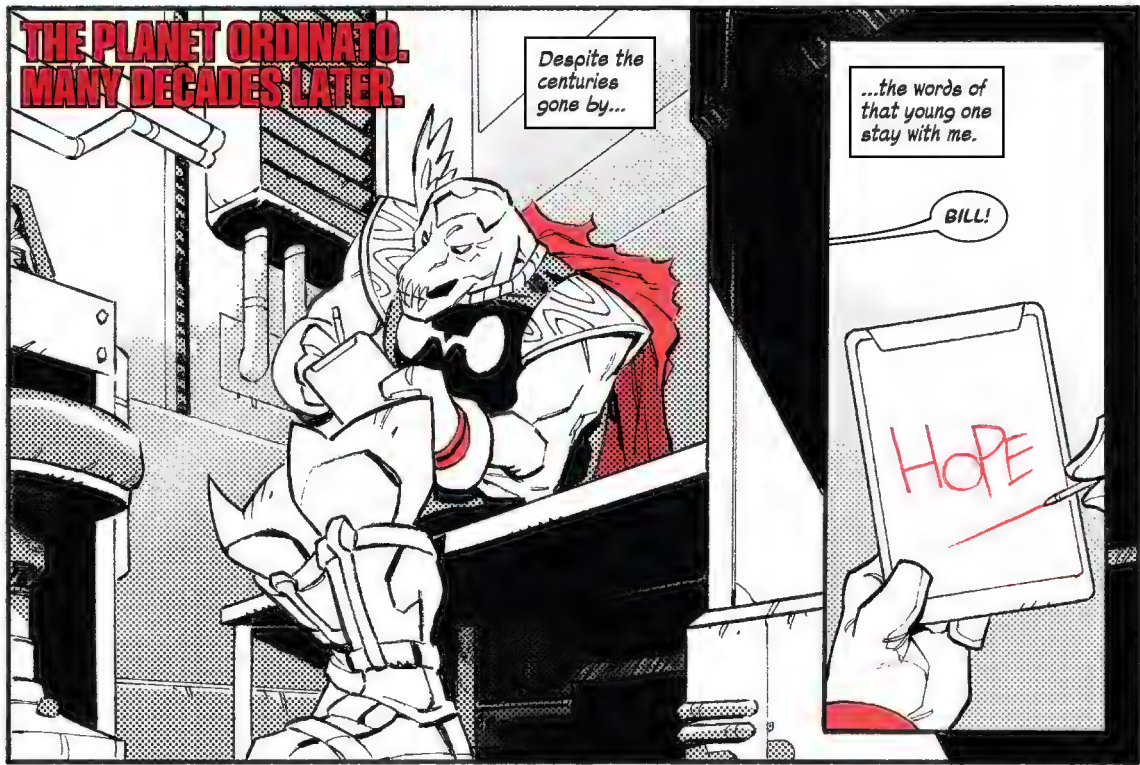
I SUPPOSE
I CAN, YES.

*In that moment,
Egoz gave me
back something
I had lost long
ago...*

...hope.



THANK
YOU,
EGOZ.



**THE PLANET ORDINATO.
MANY DECADES LATER.**

Despite the
centuries
gone by...

...the words of
that young one
stay with me.

BILL!

HOPE



WE'VE PICKED
UP A DISTRESS SIGNAL
ON THE WEST SIDE OF
THE PLANET.



SHANYN
IS DOING A SCAN
NOW.

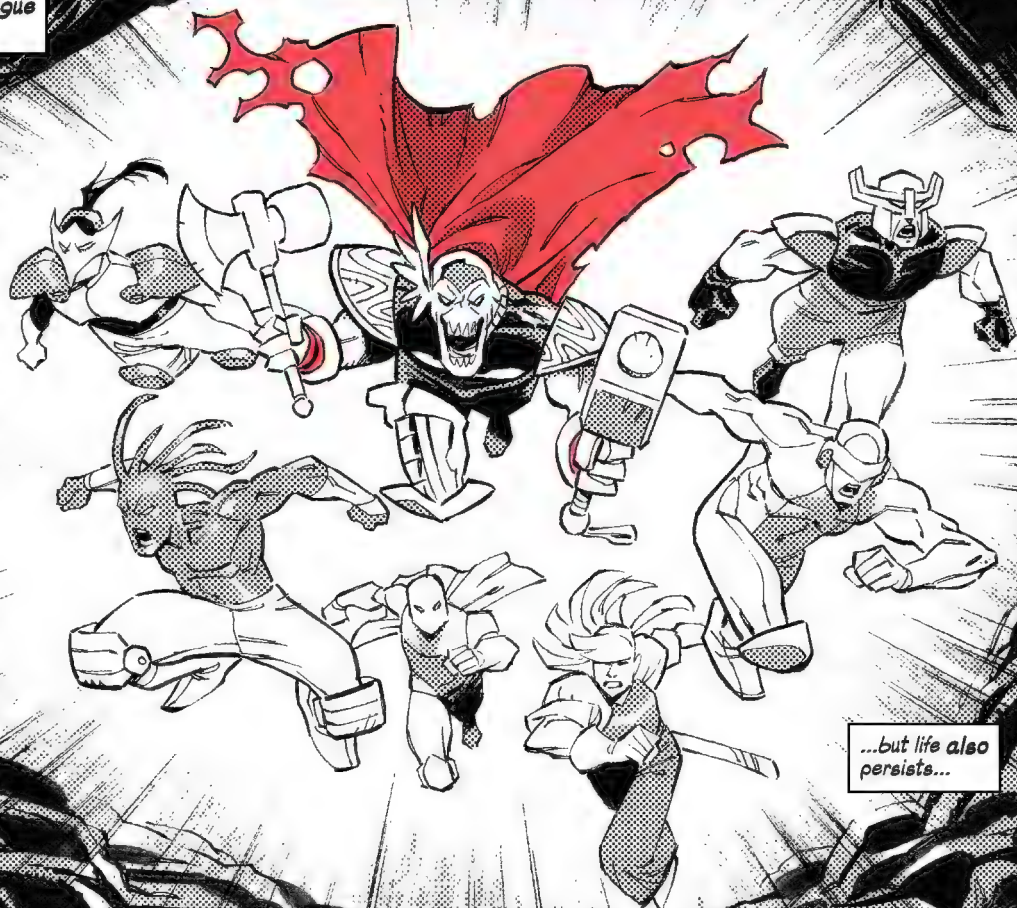
COULD
IT BE MORE
SURVIVORS?

I HOPE
SO.



EGOZ,
GATHER THE
TEAM.

Time moves on,
and this plague
persists...

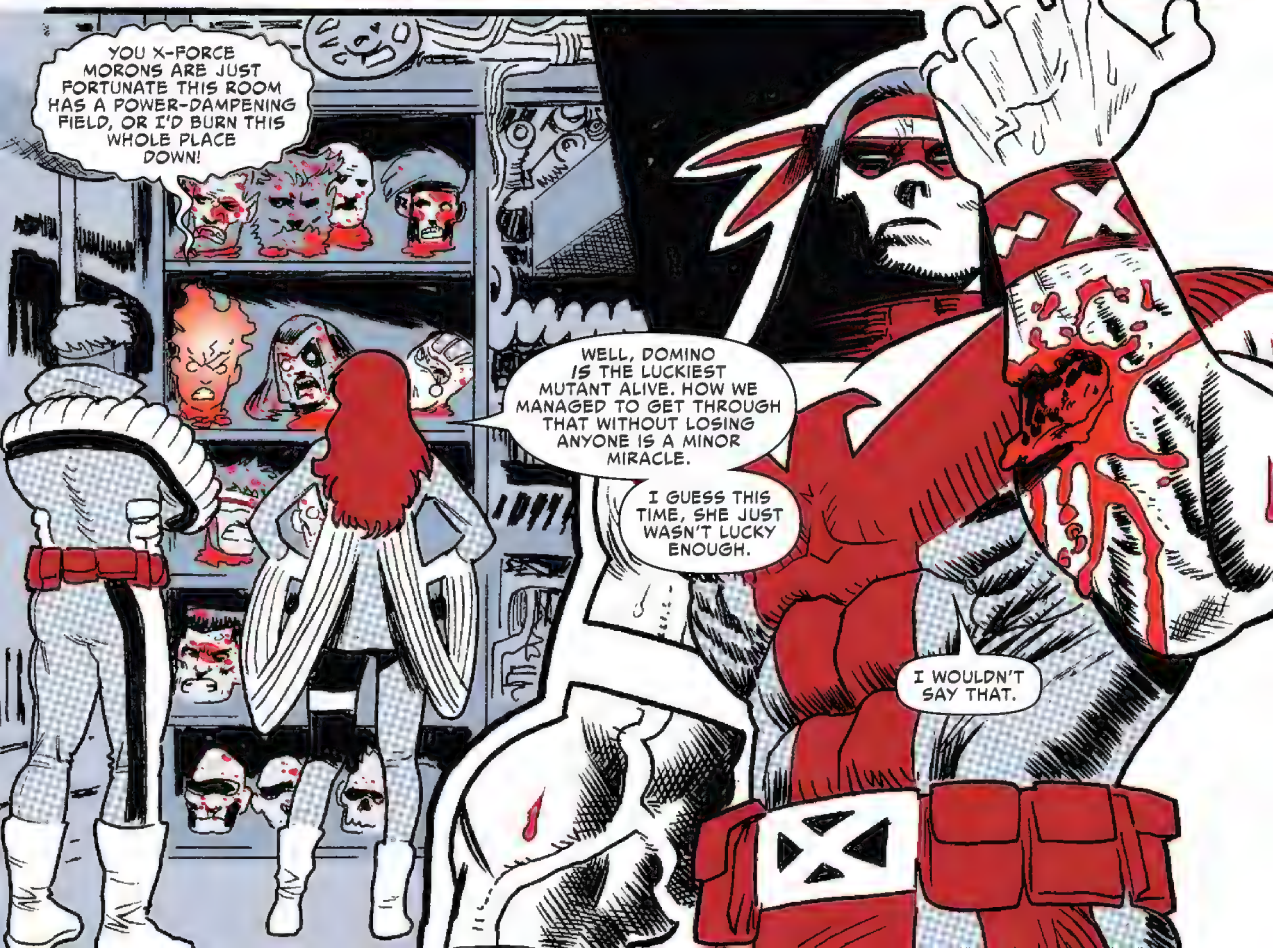
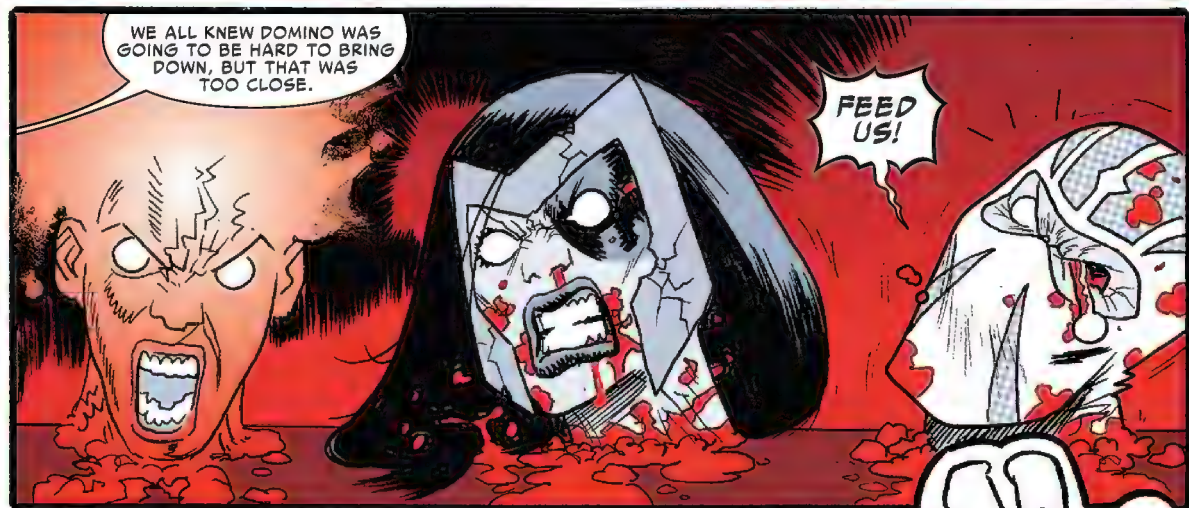


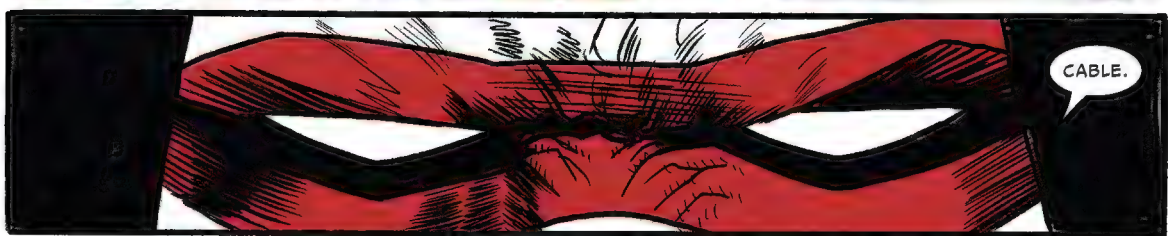
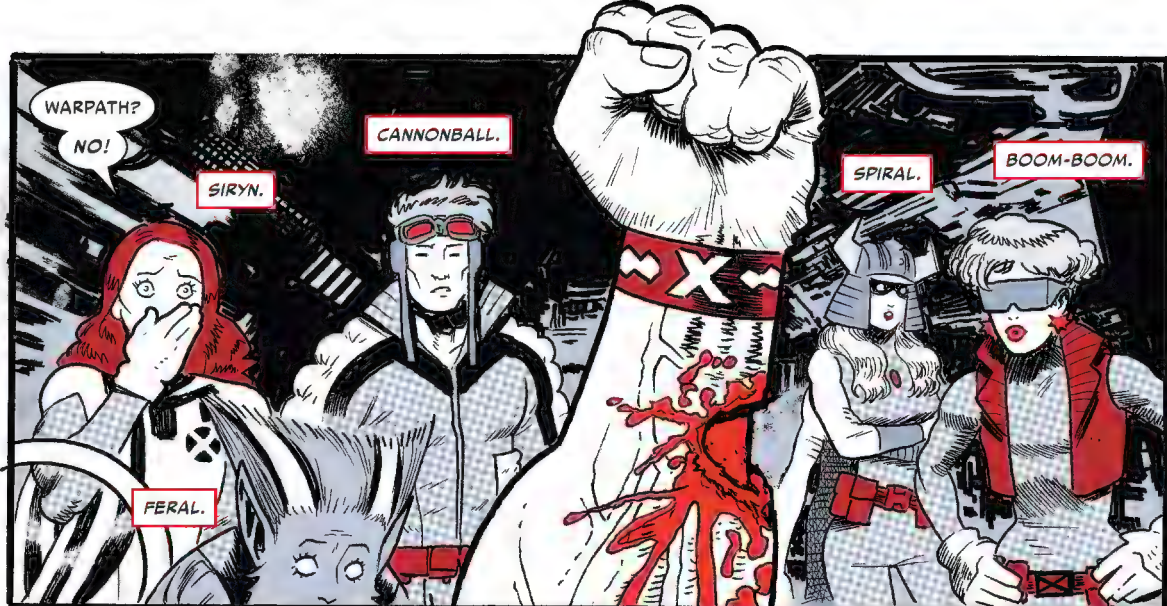
...but life also
persists...

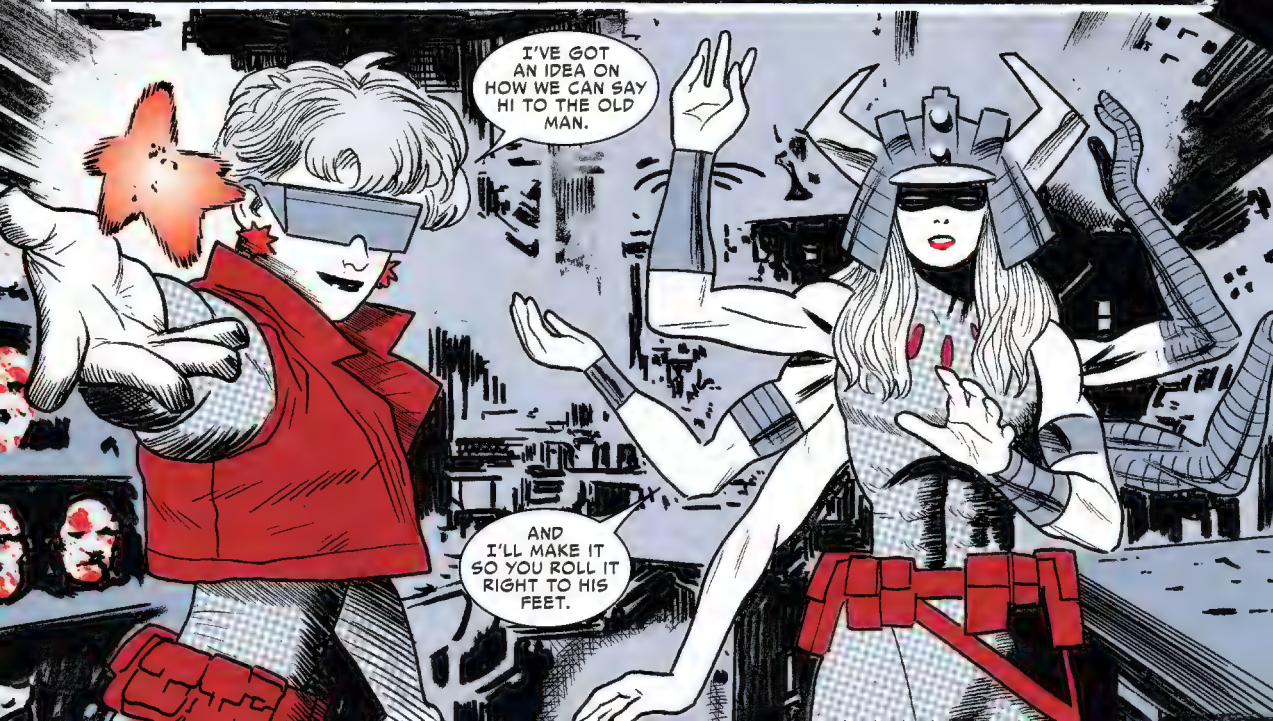
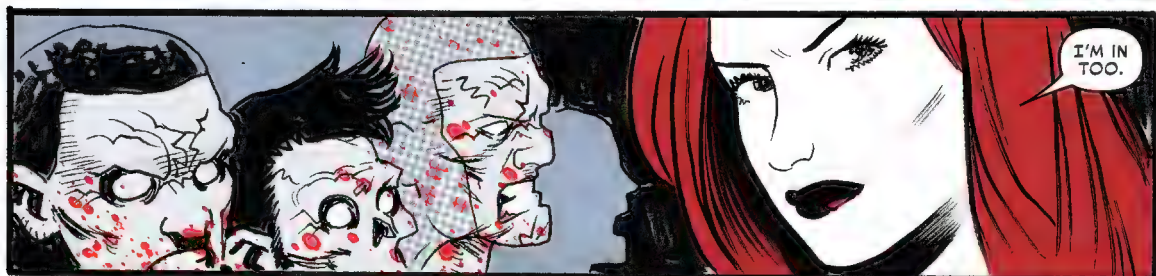


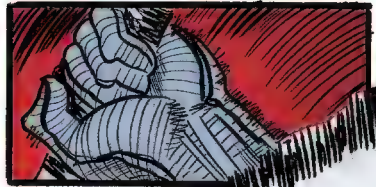
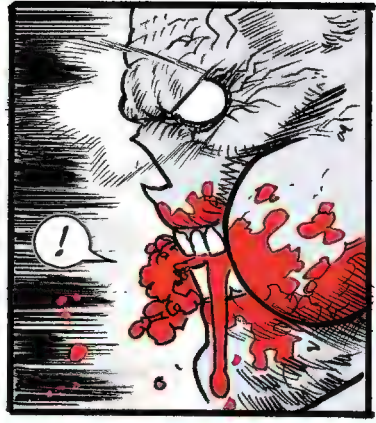
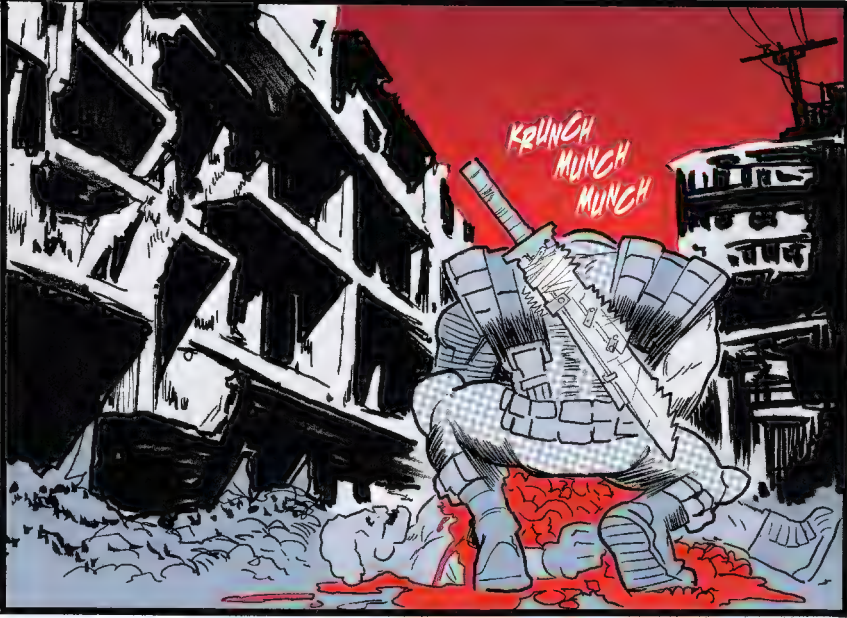
...and so do
heroes.









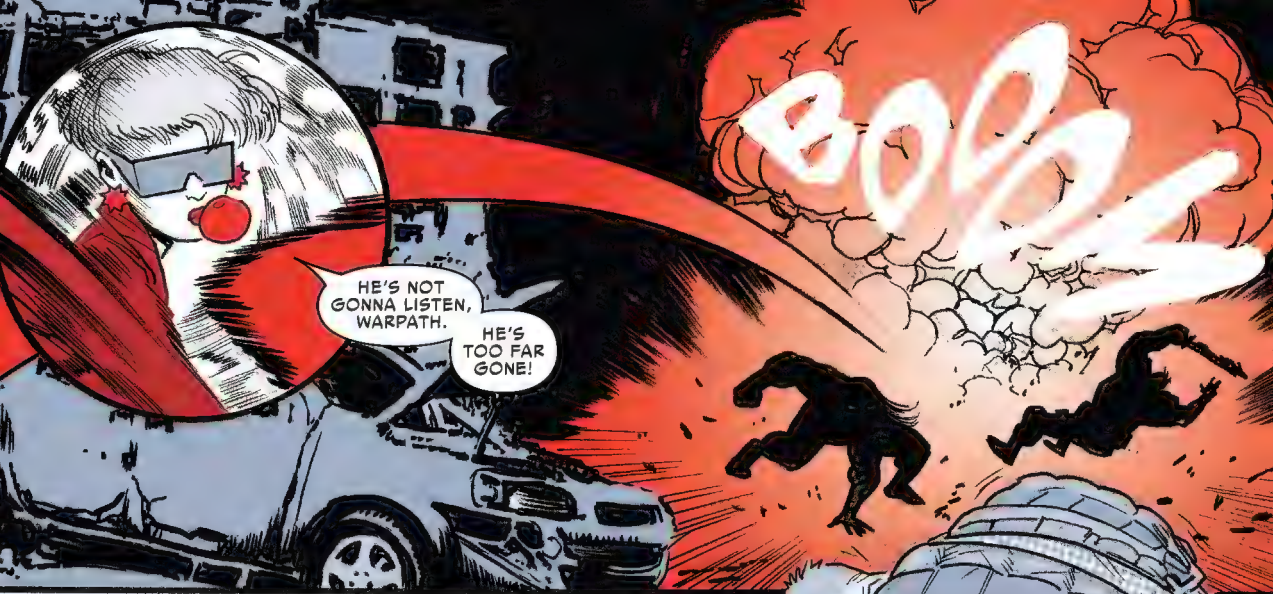


LET US
HELP YOU,
CABLE.

YOU WERE
LIKE A FATHER
TO ME...TO US, WE
CAN'T STAND TO
SEE YOU LIKE
THIS.

NOT
YOU.

WARPATH.



HE'S NOT
GONNA LISTEN,
WARPATH.

HE'S
TOO FAR
GONE!



JUST
GO DOWN,
CABLE!

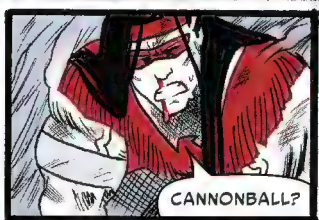
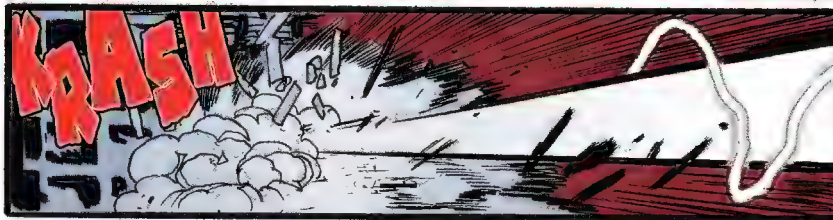
THE HUNGER
WON'T LET THAT
HAPPEN.

WORDS
CAN'T EXPLAIN
THE SENSATION. IT'S LIKE
A FEVER LUST, ONLY
SEVERAL ORDERS
OF MAGNITUDE
HIGHER.

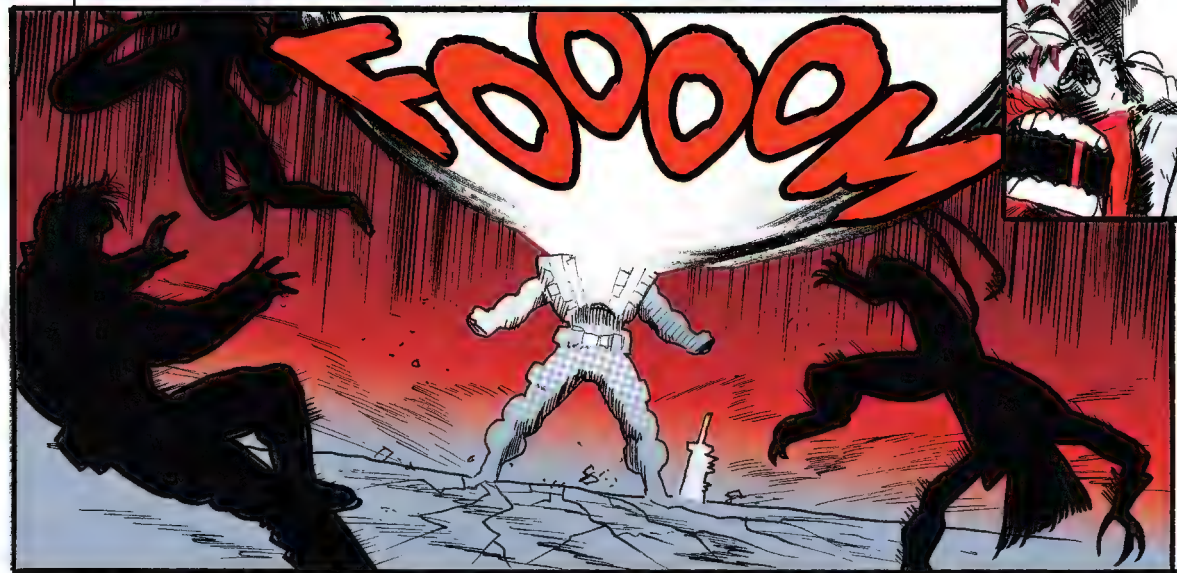
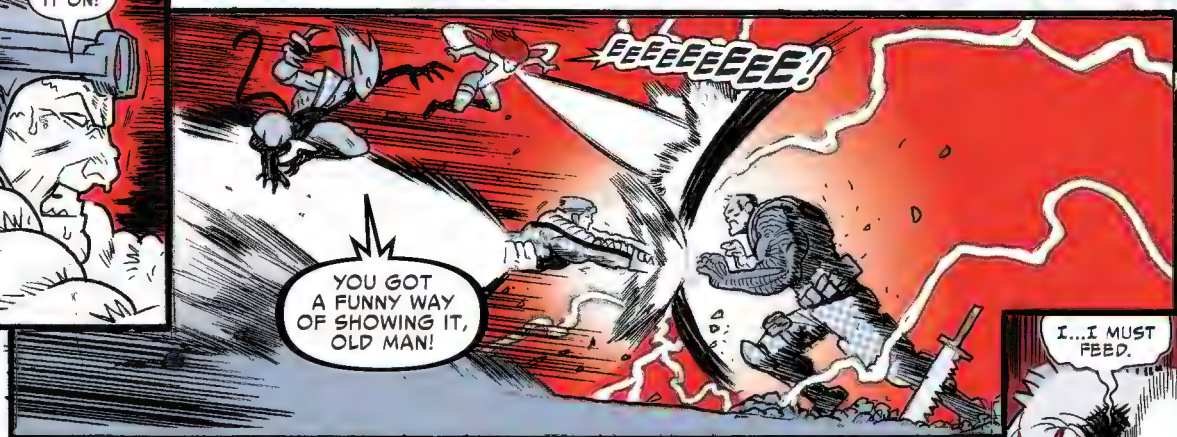
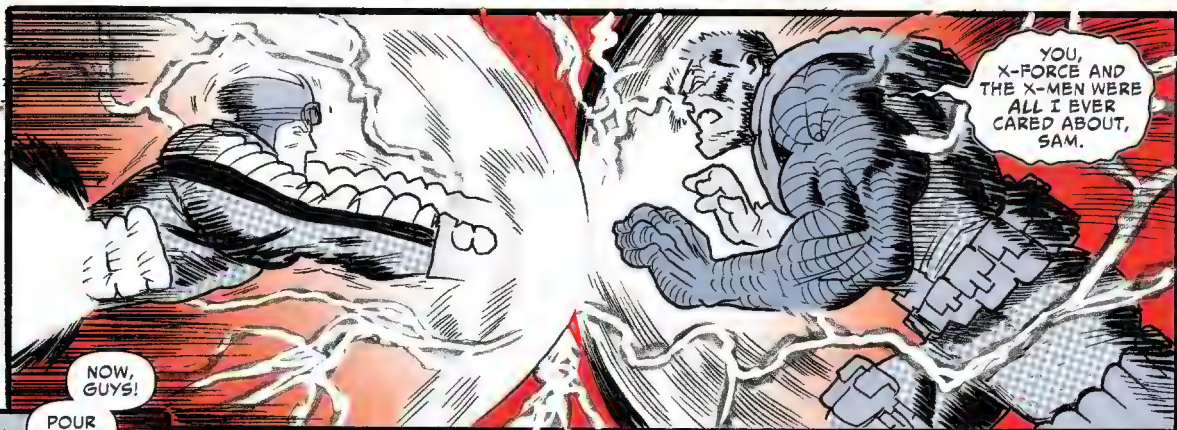
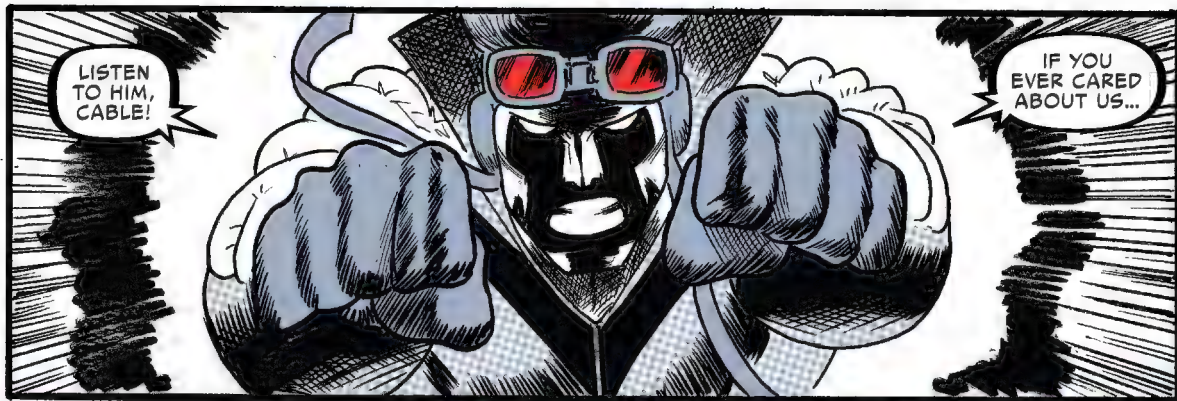
YOU'RE
INFECTED,
JAMES.

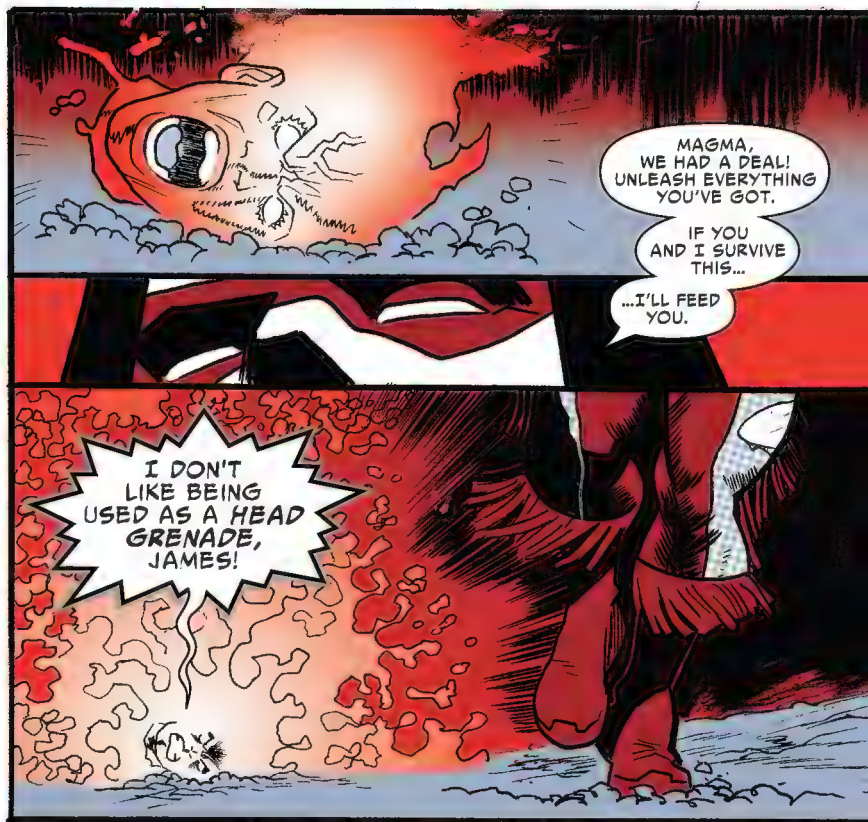
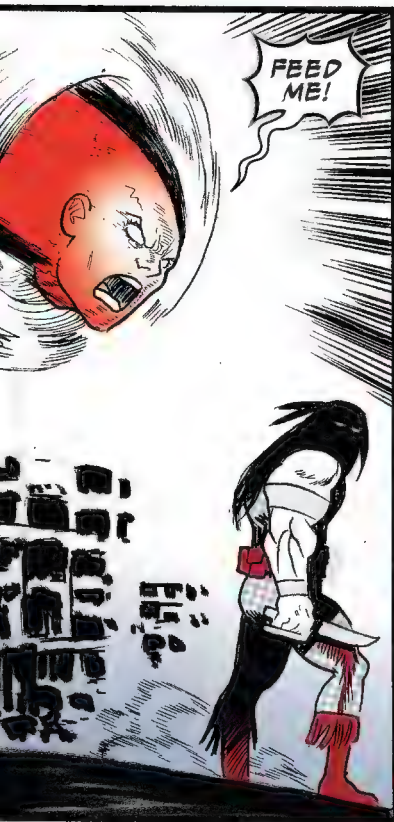


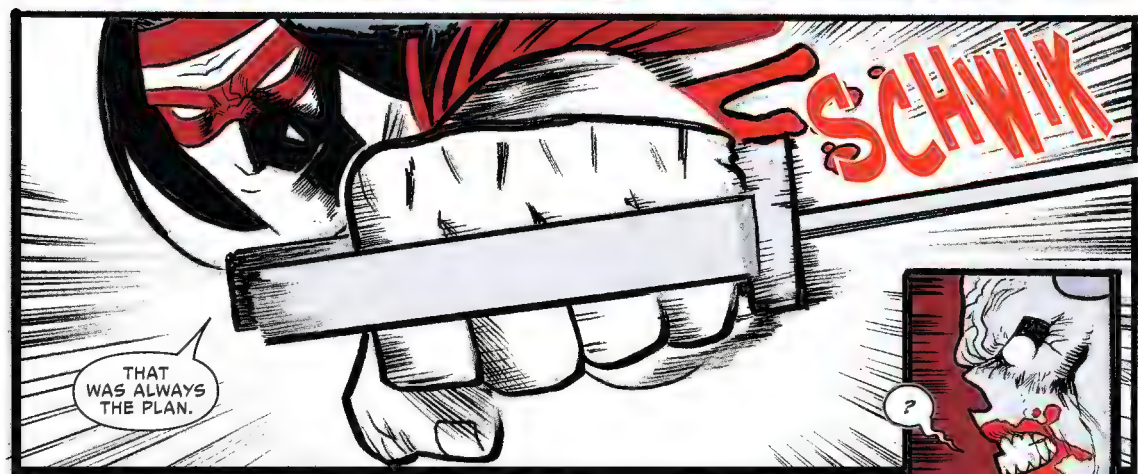
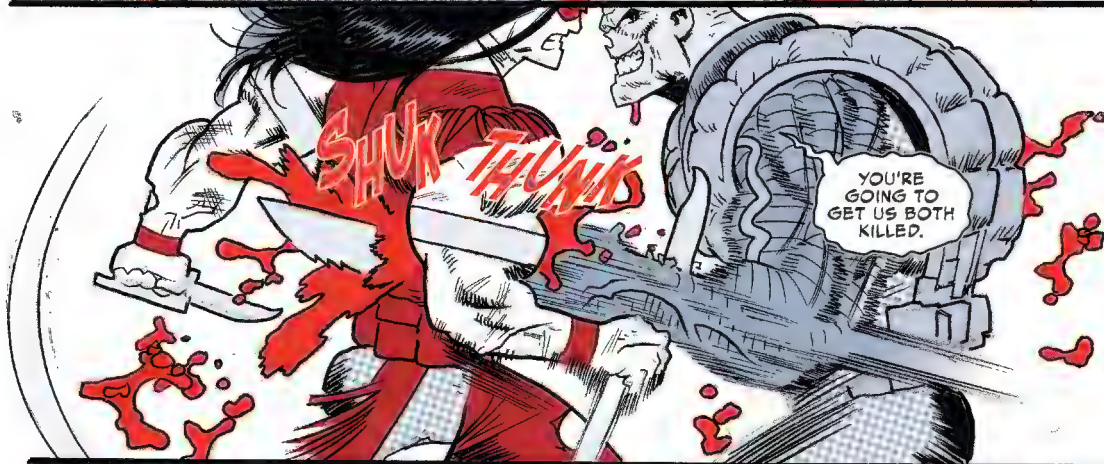
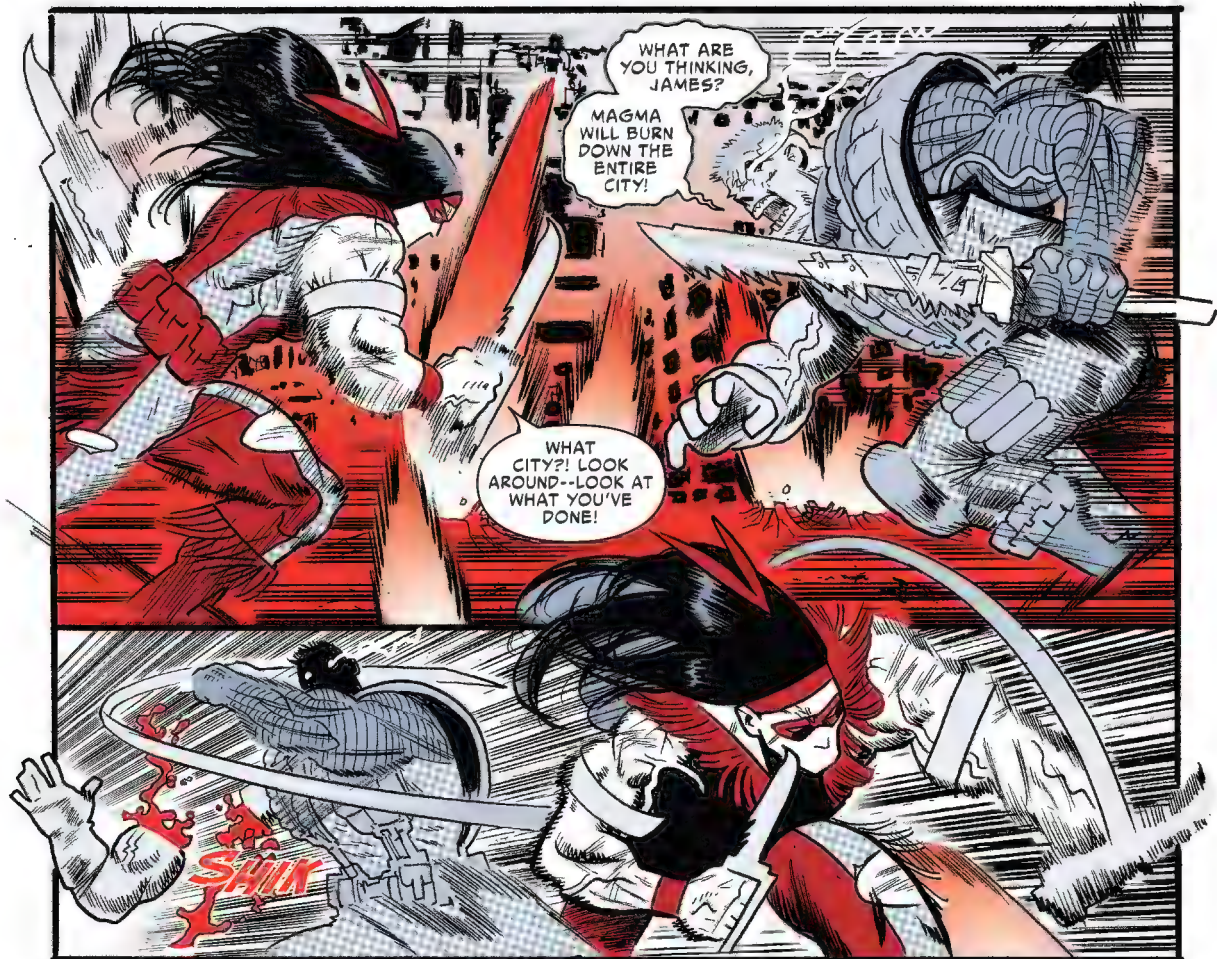
YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND SOON
ENOUGH.



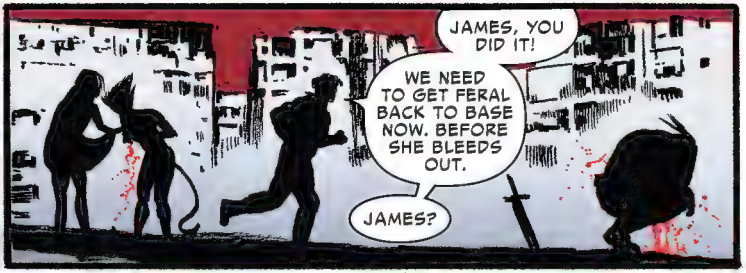
CANNONBALL?











JAMES, YOU DID IT!

WE NEED TO GET FERAL BACK TO BASE NOW. BEFORE SHE BLEEDS OUT.

JAMES?



I MUST FEED!

THE HUNGER!



SPIRAL, GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE NOW! LEAVE WARPATH!

HE'S...

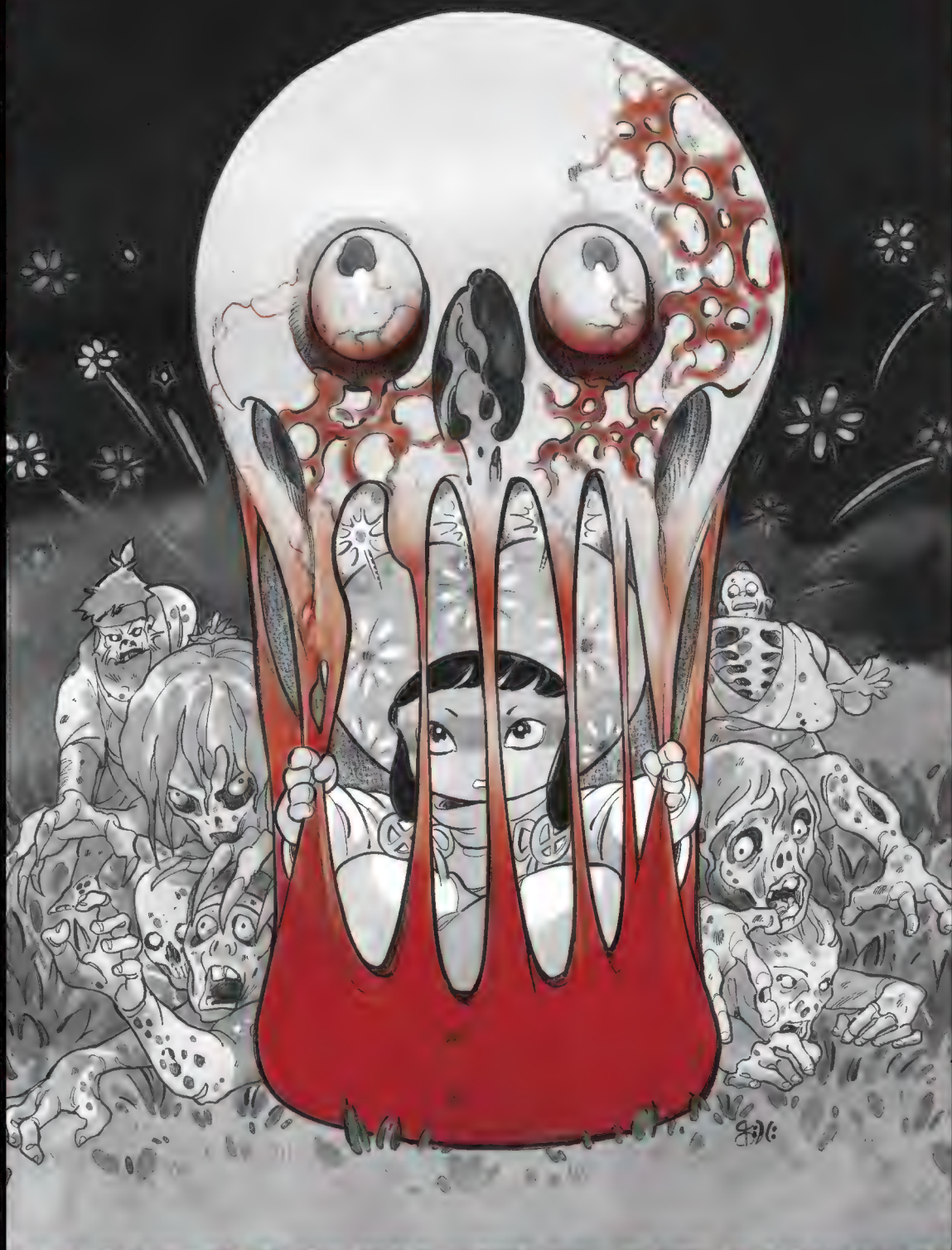
...HE'S...



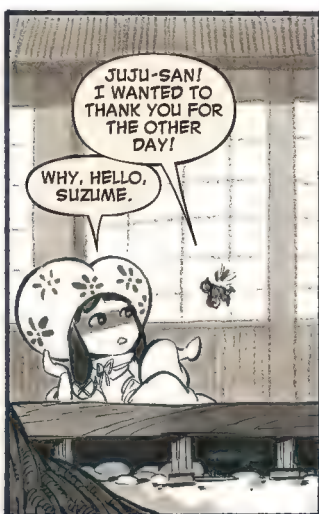
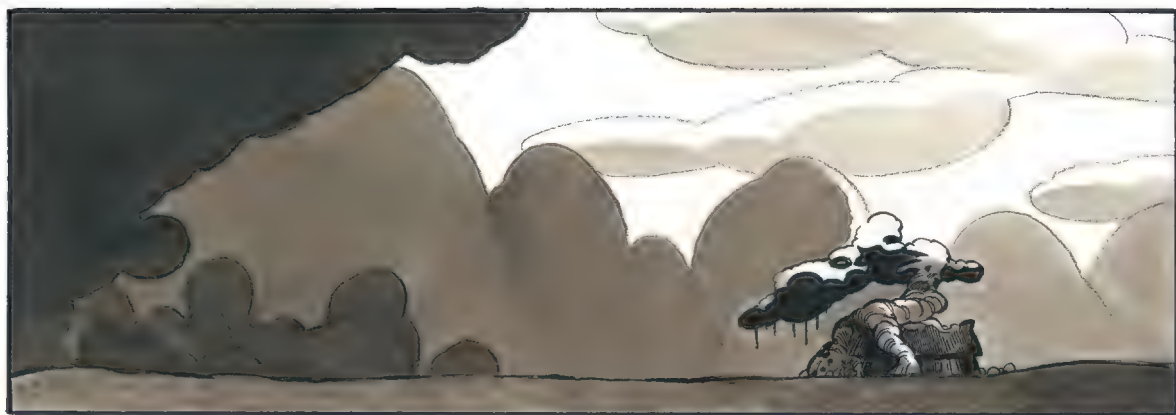
I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, JAMES.

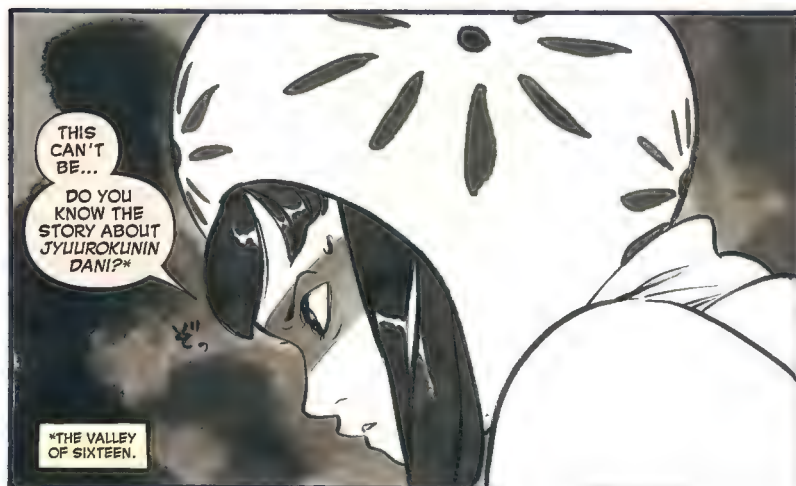
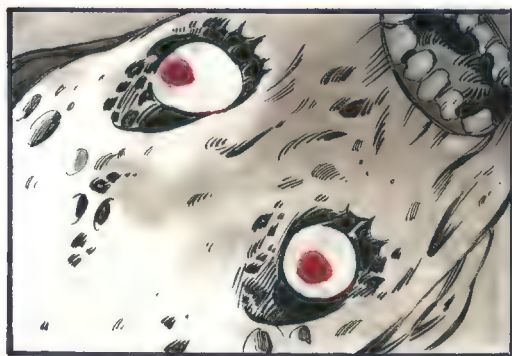
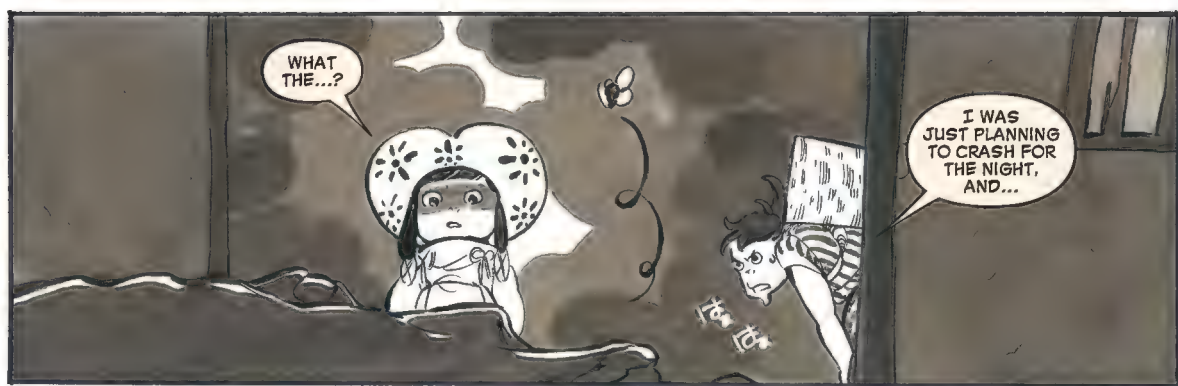
I PROMISE.

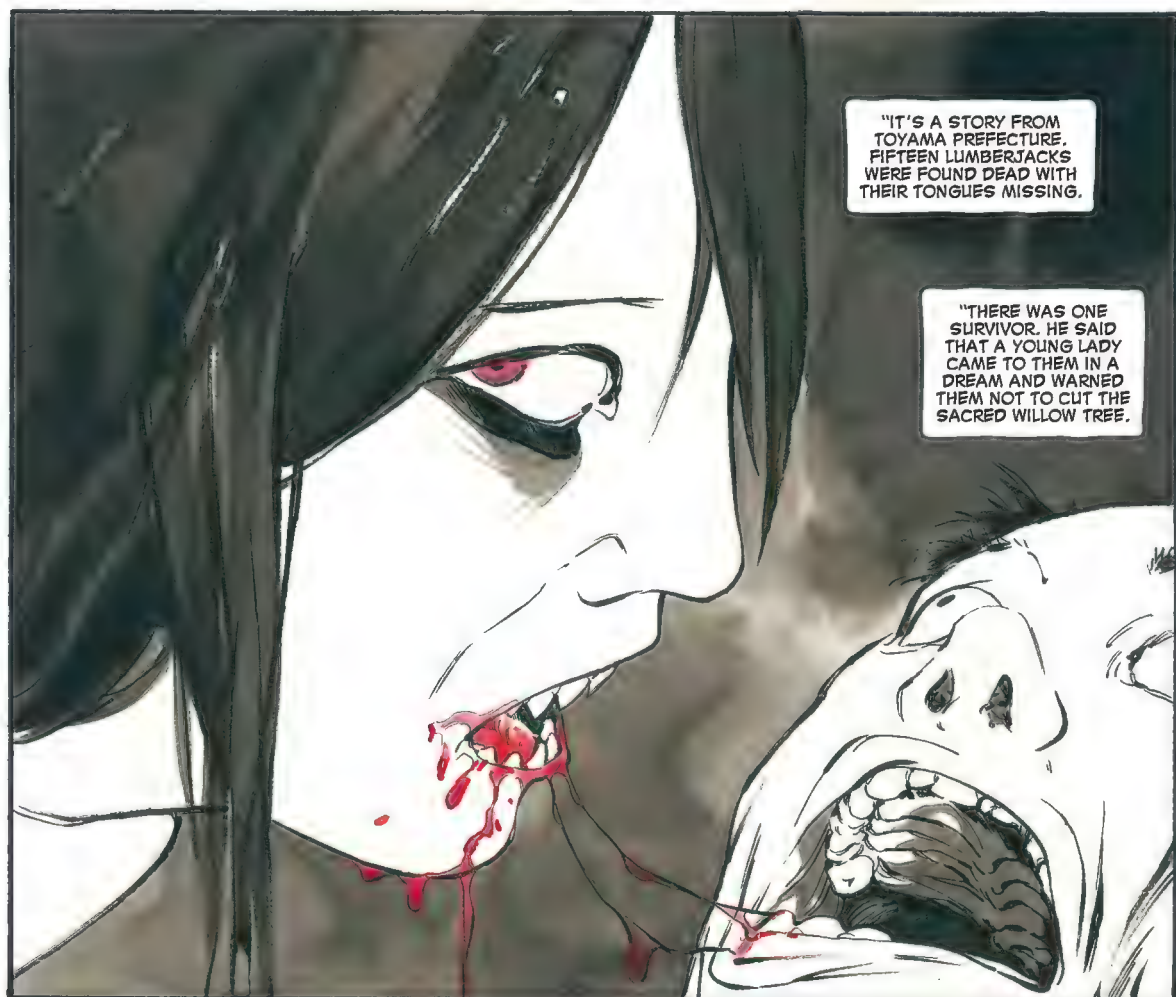
THE END.











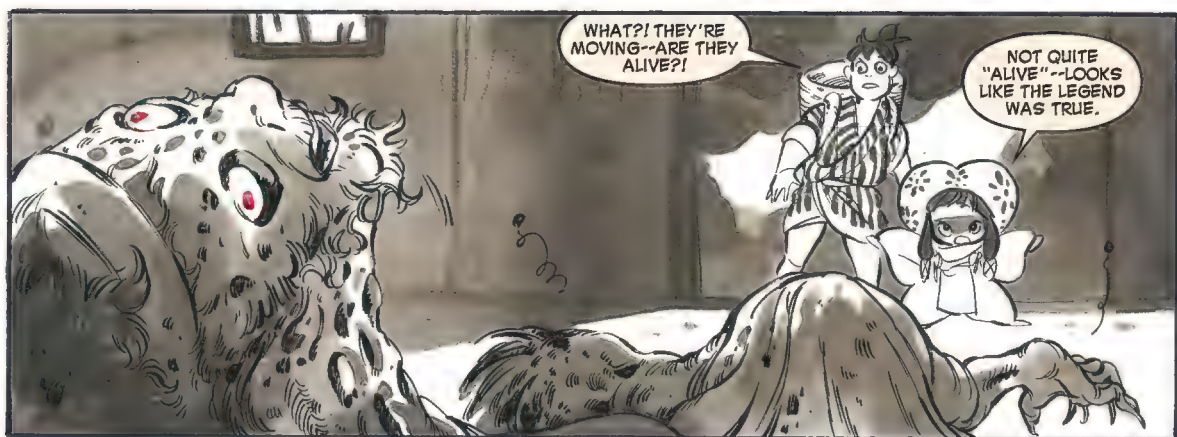
"IT'S A STORY FROM
TOYAMA PREFECTURE.
FIFTEEN LUMBERJACKS
WERE FOUND DEAD WITH
THEIR TONGUES MISSING.

"THERE WAS ONE
SURVIVOR. HE SAID
THAT A YOUNG LADY
CAME TO THEM IN A
DREAM AND WARNED
THEM NOT TO CUT THE
SACRED WILLOW TREE.



"ALL SIXTEEN
LUMBERJACKS SAW
THE SAME DREAM,
BUT THEY IGNORED
HER WARNING AND
WERE CURSED.

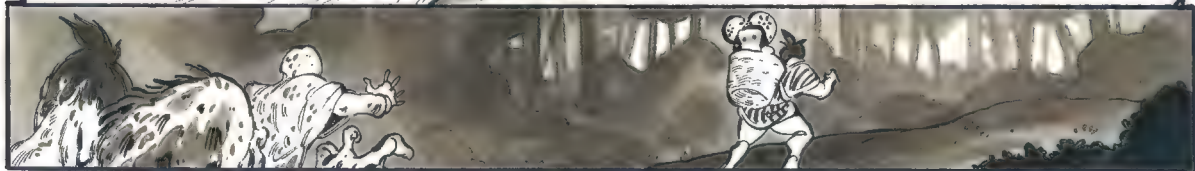
"SOME CLAIM TO HAVE
SEEN A GHOSTLY WOMAN
WITH A NECKLACE MADE
OF TONGUES."



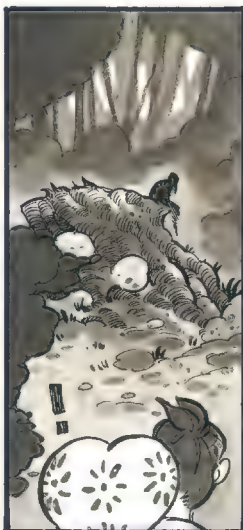
"DOWN BY THE RIVER...THAT
WILLOW TREE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL
AND HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL
ABOUT IT. THE ROOTS WRAPPED
THE STONES LIKE A PIECE OF ART."

"I HOPE THEY
DIDN'T CUT
IT DOWN..."

TAKE ME
TO THE WILLOW
TREE!

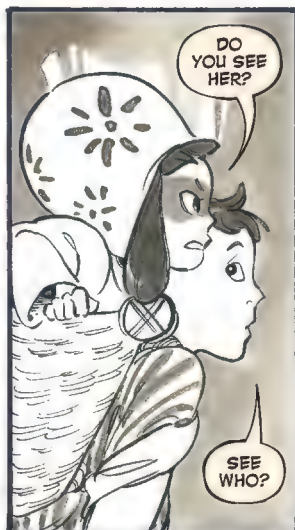


THERE--
OH NO...



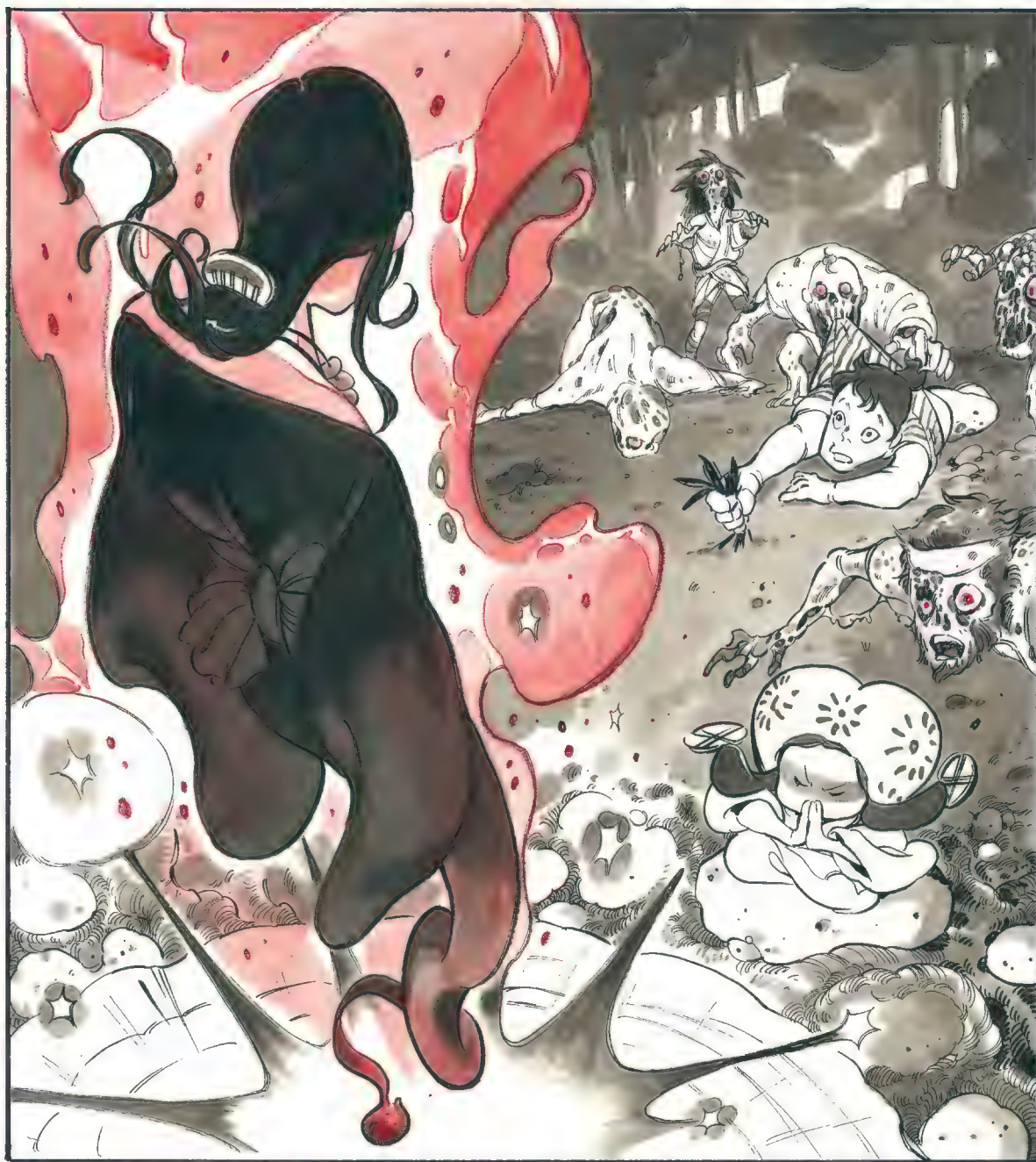
DO
YOU SEE
HER?

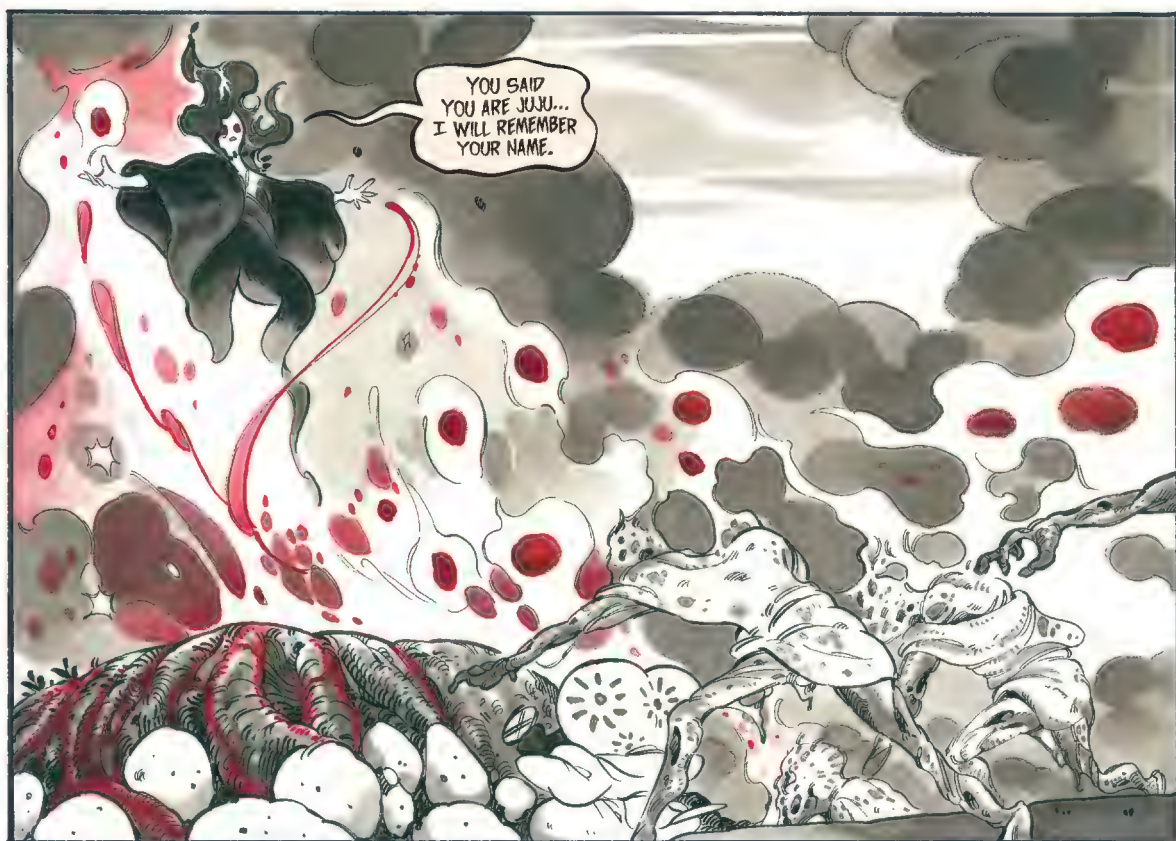
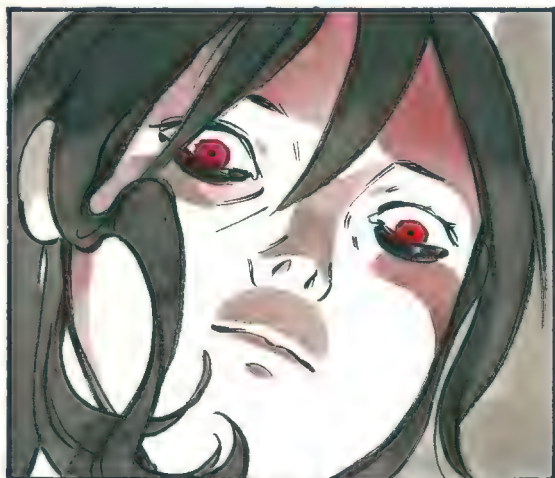
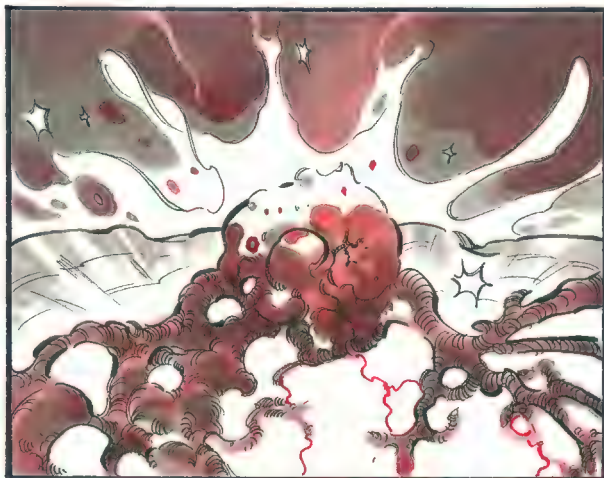
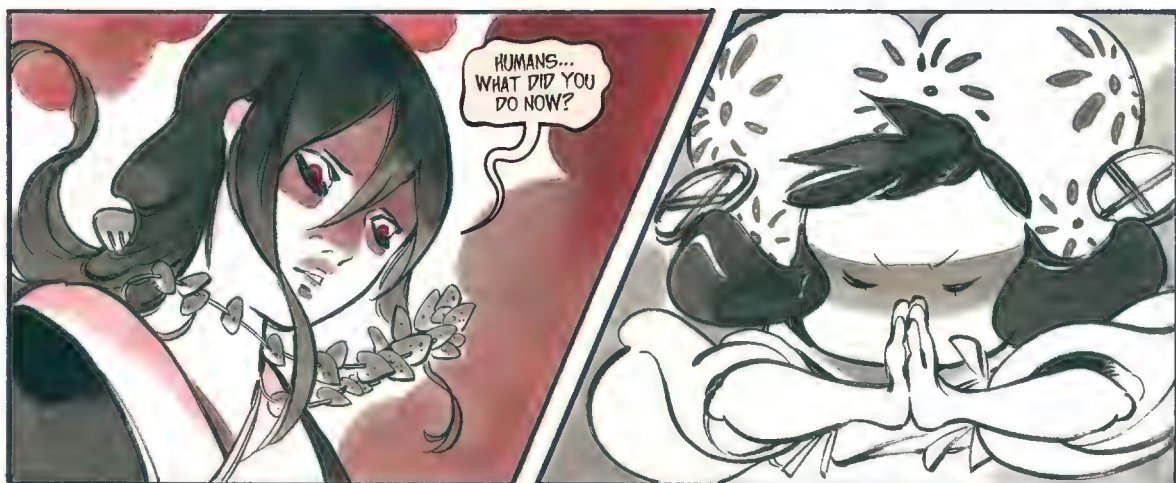
SEE
WHO?

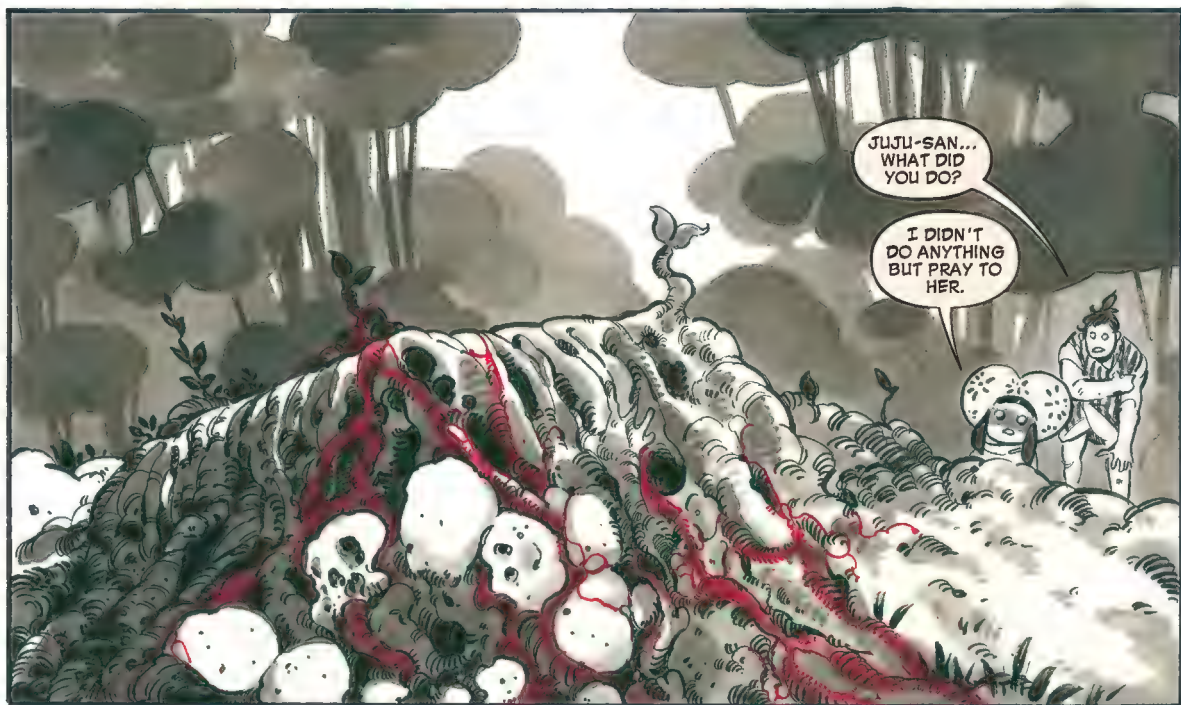
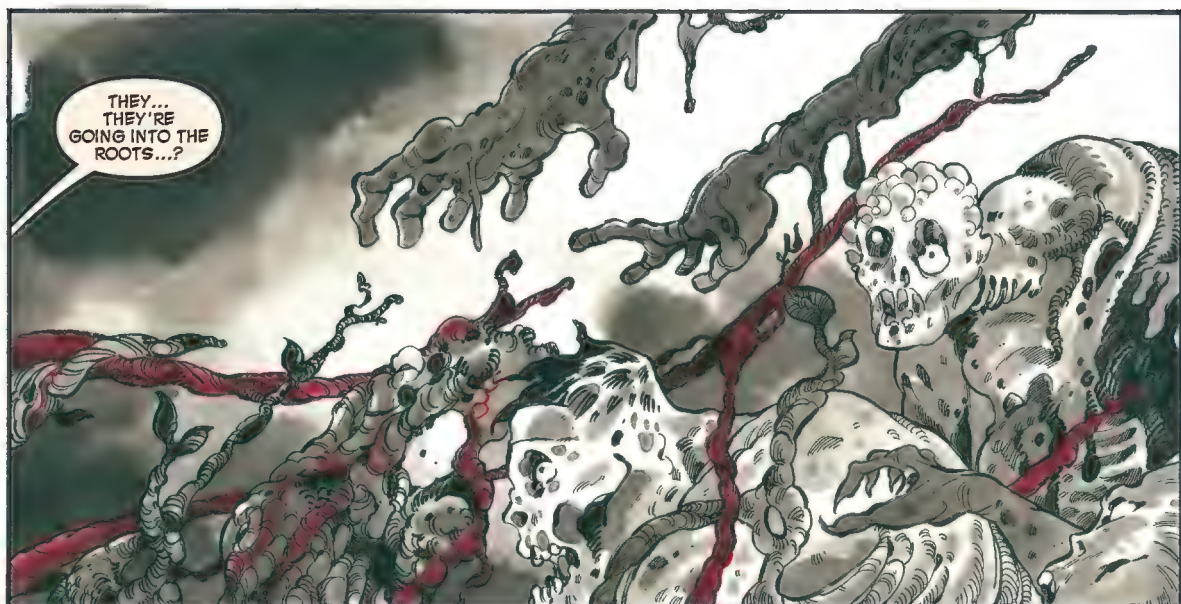


THEY'RE
COMING...









THE INSECT BEAD
THAT JUJU PLACED
IN THE FOREST SOON
GREW A NEW LIFE.

SINCE THEN, THERE
HAVE BEEN NO RUMORS
OR SIGHTINGS OF THE
YOUNG LADY SPIRIT.

THE LEGEND OF
THE "JYUUKUNIN
DANI" BECAME A
FOLKTALE AND A
REMINDER TO TAKE
CARE OF NATURE.

WHAT DID THE LADY
THINK WHEN SHE SAW
THE INSECT BEAD?
WHAT DID JUJU SAY
TO HER? ONLY JUJU
KNOWS...AND THAT
IS ANOTHER STORY
TO BE TOLD.



おしまい

**SOMEWHERE
IN THE PACIFIC
NORTHWEST.**



WHAT
DO WE THINK,
NATASHA?

IT'S
HARD TO
SEE CLEARLY
FROM HERE,
BUT...

...IT **DOES**
SEEM LIKE THERE
ARE PEOPLE DOWN
THERE.

ACTUAL
ALIVE
PEOPLE.

YEAH, I DON'T
LIKE IT. TOO GOOD.
TOO EASY.

I HEAR YOU,
CLINT. BUT--IF IT'S TRUE?
IF THEY ARE PROTECTED
SOMEHOW?

AFTER ALL
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH,
ALL WE'VE SURVIVED...DON'T
WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES
TO AT LEAST CHECK?

LOOK AT YOU, MISS
GLASS-HALF-FULL. YOU'VE COME A
LONG WAY FROM THE COLD KGB ASSASSIN.

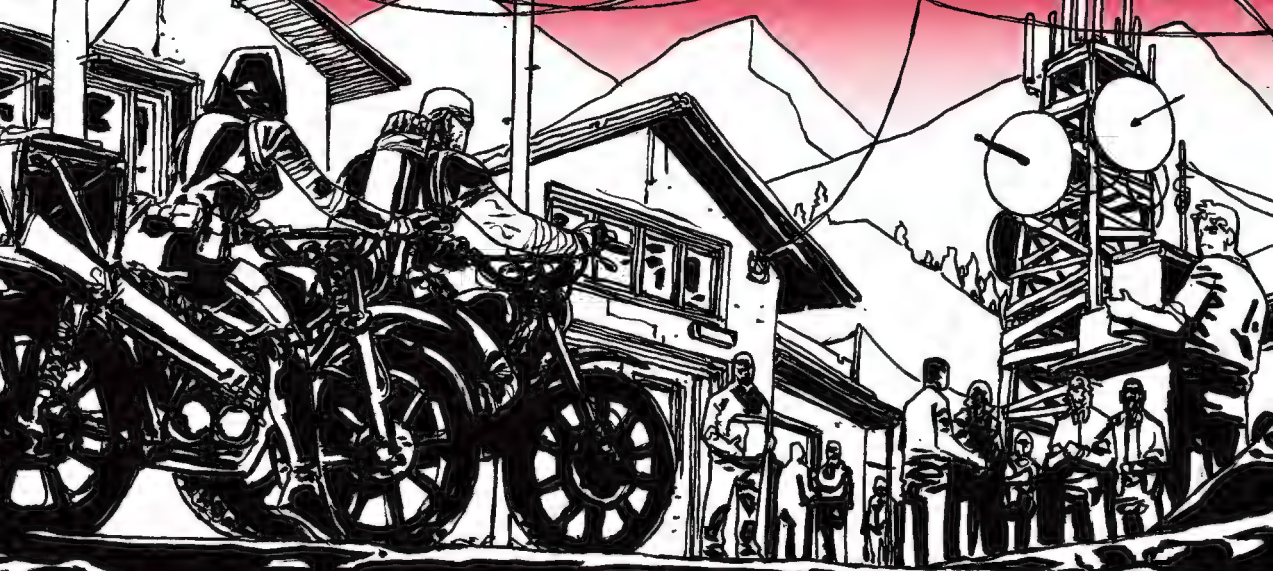
THAT VERSION OF ME BELIEVED
I WAS ALREADY DEAD.
COMPLETELY LACKING ANY
REASON TO LIVE.

I DUG MYSELF
OUT OF THAT HOLE BY
ENSURING I WAS NEVER
WITHOUT A DESTINATION.
I NEED TO BELIEVE I'M
HEADED TOWARD
SOMETHING BETTER.

WITHOUT
THAT, ALL I AM
IS JUST...

...WHAT
THEY MADE
ME.

WELL,
THEN--HERE'S TO
HEADING TOWARD
SOMETHING
BETTER.





IT'S...
SURREAL. SEEING
ACTUAL PEOPLE
AGAIN.

THANK YOU,
NAT. FOR KEEPING
ME GOING. GIVING
ME HOPE.

YOU CAN
THANK ME ONCE WE
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE,
NOT BEFORE.



THIS DOESN'T
LOOK FAMILIAR AT
ALL. NOT ASgardIAN OR
KREE OR ANY SYSTEM
OF MAGIC I--



--RECOGNIZE...



±SIGH±
WHO
SCREWED
UP?

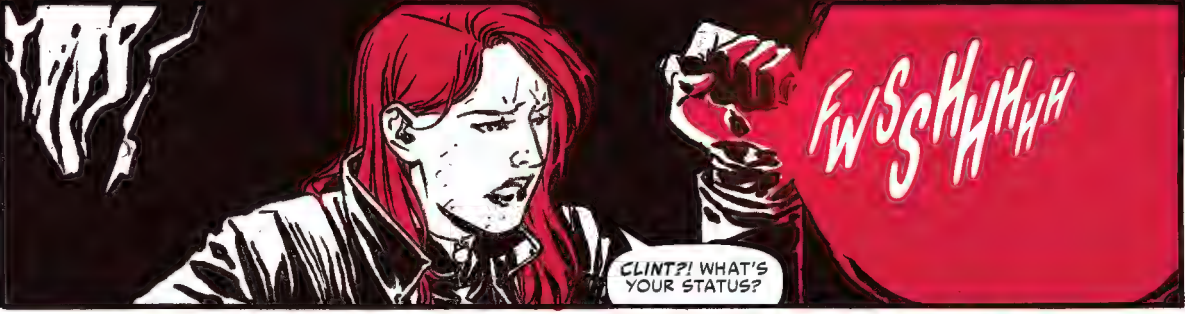


SKREEEE!

ARGH!

FWIP

BOOM





THEY
KILLED MY
SISTER!

YES, WELL--
SHE'S THE ONE WHO
GAVE US AWAY.

BECAUSE
SHE WAS HUNGRY!
FATHER!

NICK
FURY?

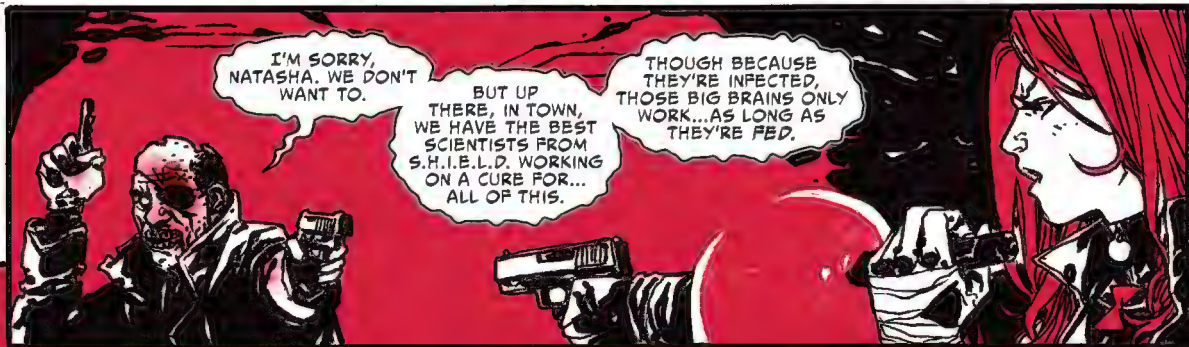
AND--
MASTERMIND? AND
THE MASTERMIND
JUNIORS.

ILLUSIONISTS.

IT'S AN
ILLUSION.
A TRAP.

OF COURSE
IT'S A TRAP. YOU LURE
PEOPLE HERE, YOU PRETEND
TO BE HUMAN, YOU EAT
THE PEOPLE.

GOD!
I'M SO
STUPID!



I'M SORRY,
NATASHA. WE DON'T
WANT TO.

BUT UP
THERE, IN TOWN,
WE HAVE THE BEST
SCIENTISTS FROM
S.H.I.E.L.D. WORKING
ON A CURE FOR...
ALL OF THIS.

THOUGH BECAUSE
THEY'RE INFECTED,
THOSE BIG BRAINS ONLY
WORK...AS LONG AS
THEY'RE FED.



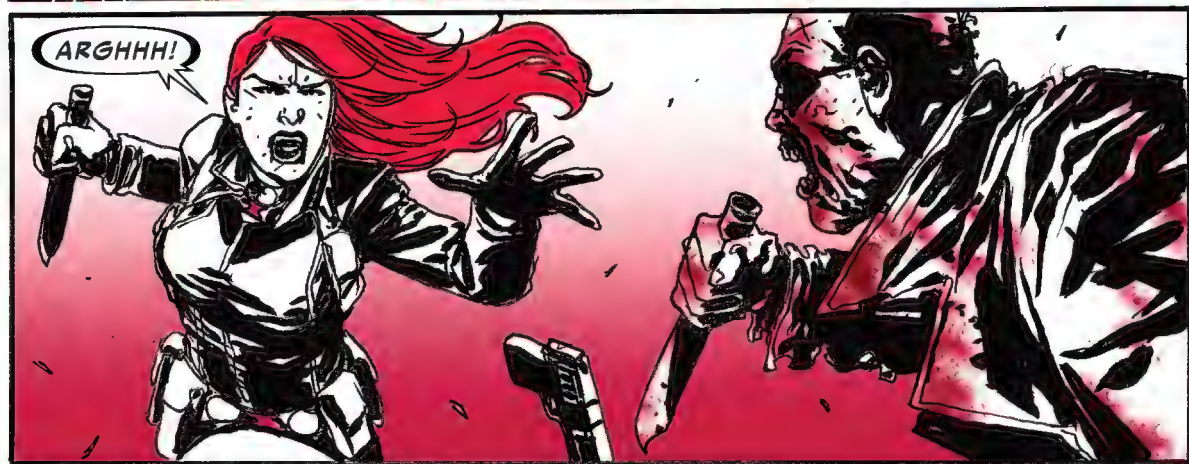
YOU
HEARD THE MAN.
WE'RE HEROES,
DARLING.

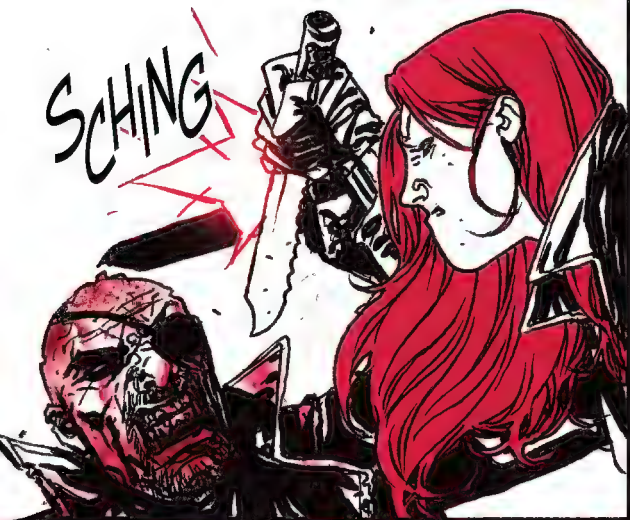
YOU'RE
DELUDED. KNEE-
DEEP IN CORPSES,
TRYING TO
JUSTIFY IT TO
YOURSELVES.

THIS IS
THE ONLY WAY
TO SAVE THOSE WHO
STILL CAN BE SAVED,
NATASHA!

NO. THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT
TO SAVE.

WE'RE
ALL ALREADY
DEAD.







I REMEMBER
THIS FEELING.



THE
DESPAIR.

I'D FORGOTTEN
HOW EMPOWERING
IT IS.

THE CERTAINTY THAT NO MATTER
WHERE YOU FIND YOURSELF...



ONE GOT
AWAY!

GET
HER!

WHOEVER
BRINGS HER DOWN
GETS HALF!

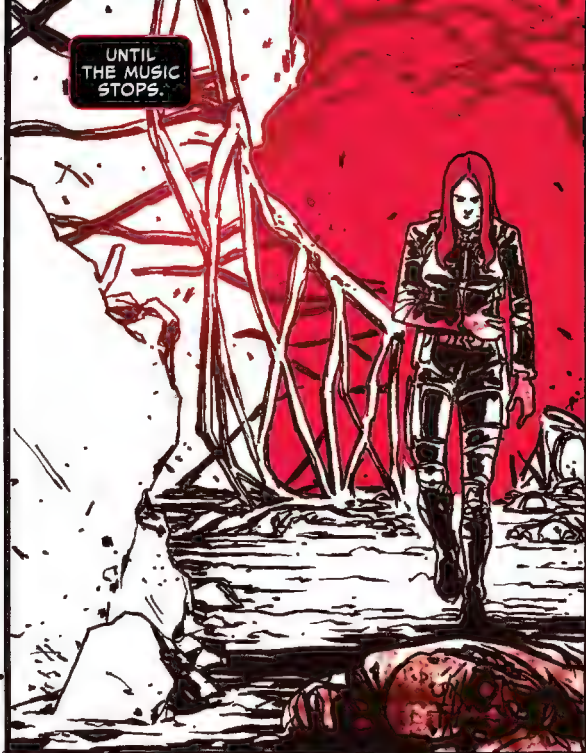


...YOU'LL ALWAYS BE
THE ONE WITH THE
LEAST TO LOSE.

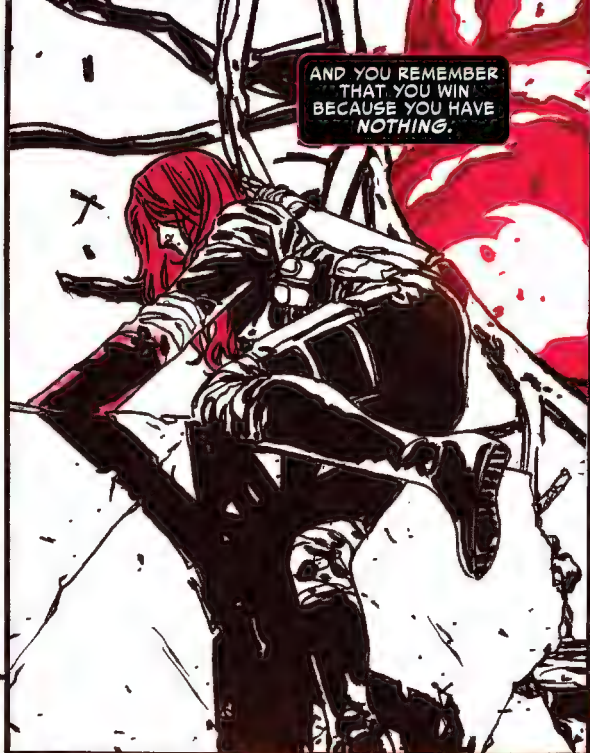
BANG BANG BANG BANG



UNTIL
THE MUSIC
STOPS.



AND YOU REMEMBER
THAT YOU WIN
BECAUSE YOU HAVE
NOTHING.



AND
NOWHERE
LEFT TO
GO.

END.

THE PLACE: NEW YORK CITY. THE TIME: RIGHT ON, BROTHER.



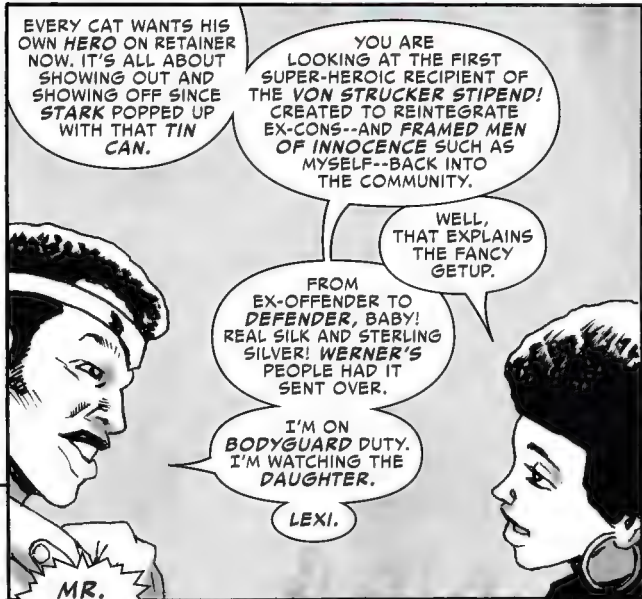
HMMPH! HOPE I GET TO KEEP THESE THREADS WHEN THE GIG IS THROUGH.

HEY, LUKE! WHAT YOU KNOW GOOD?



MISTY? WHAT YOU DOING HERE, GIRL?

THAT'S MR. RAND'S PLUS-ONE TO YOU, BABY! DANNY SAID YOU'D BE WORKING THIS SHINDIG TONIGHT.



EVERY CAT WANTS HIS OWN HERO ON RETAINER NOW. IT'S ALL ABOUT SHOWING OUT AND SHOWING OFF SINCE STARK POPPED UP WITH THAT TIN CAN.

YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE FIRST SUPER-HEROIC RECIPIENT OF THE VON STRUCKER STIPEND! CREATED TO REINTEGRATE EX-CONS--AND FRAMED MEN OF INNOCENCE SUCH AS MYSELF--BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY.

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS THE FANCY GETUP.

FROM EX-OFFENDER TO DEFENDER, BABY! REAL SILK AND STERLING SILVER! WERNER'S PEOPLE HAD IT SENT OVER.

I'M ON BODYGUARD DUTY. I'M WATCHING THE DAUGHTER.

LEXI.

MR. CAGE!



WITH A GETUP LIKE THAT, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE THE ONLY ONE WATCHING HER.

AND WATCH YOURSELF TOO. RUMOR HAS IT THAT ONE'S A MANEATER.

I WAS SO DELIGHTED WHEN DADDY SAID YOU WOULD BE MY EYES AND EARS FOR TONIGHT.





I BRING TO YOU A NEW AGE OF **UBER-MEN**! NOT MACHINE, NOR MUTANT MONSTROSITY--BUT THE PINNACLE OF HUMANITY! AN ADAM OF SCIENCE AND CIVIC DUTY!

I KNOW THAT FACE. COULD NEVER FORGET IT.



THE PRISON GUARD WHO SOLD US OFF TO THAT RESEARCH FACILITY.



CAUSED THE ACCIDENT THAT MADE ME WHAT I AM.

RACKHAM.



I ASSURE YOU THE TESTING HAS BEEN RIGOROUS. WE HAVE BESTED THE RESULTS OF TULLY AND REINSTEIN! SURPASSED HOWARD STARK!

LET'S GO, MAMA. THIS AIN'T THE SCENE FOR US. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT IT'S ABOUT TO GET UGLY IN HERE.

BUT DADDY'S SPEECH!

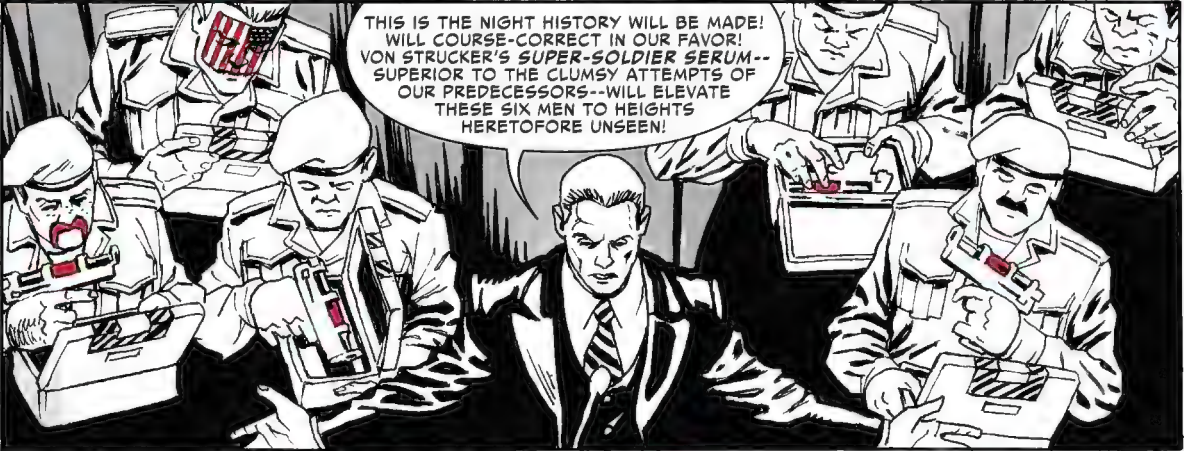
HEARD SPEECHES LIKE HIS ALL MY LIFE, BABY.

YOU ARE BEING ABSURD! AND RUINING MY FATHER'S BIG NIGHT, MIGHT I ADD!

HE'LL HAVE NEW SPECIMENS TO SHOW OFF SOON ENOUGH. HE DON'T NEED ME.



AND WE
HAVE FINALLY
UNRAVELED THE
MYSTERY OF CAPTAIN
AMERICA THAT
CHALLENGED MY
FATHER FOR SO
MANY YEARS.



THIS IS THE NIGHT HISTORY WILL BE MADE!
WILL COURSE-CORRECT IN OUR FAVOR!
VON STRUCKER'S *SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM*--
SUPERIOR TO THE CLUMSY ATTEMPTS OF
OUR PREDECESSORS--WILL ELEVATE
THESE SIX MEN TO HEIGHTS
HERETOFORE UNSEEN!



"WITH THIS NEW
CADRE OF ELITE
WARRIORS TO
DEFEND US, WE
WILL SWEEP THE
DROSS OF THE
STREETS BACK
INTO THE
GUTTERS."



FGGSSST...

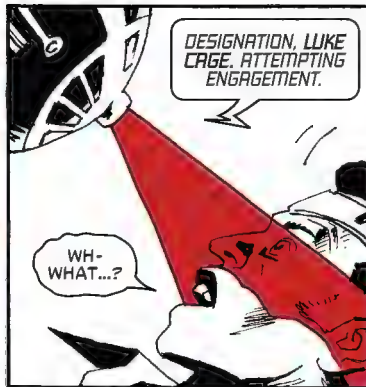
"RECLAIM OUR
BIRTHRIGHT."



"AND RETURN
TRUE GLORY
TO THE VON
STRUCKER
NAME."



SUBJECT
CONSCIOUS.
SCANNING.



DESIGNATION, LUKE
CAGE. ATTEMPTING
ENGAGEMENT.

WH-
WHAT....?



GREETINGS, MR. CAGE! I AM
PLEASSED TO INFORM YOU THAT
YOUR VITAL SIGNS ARE NORMAL.



IT IS SUGGESTED THAT
YOU SELECT SECURITY
ACTIVATION.



ACTIVATE!

SECURITY
PROGRAMMING
INITIALIZED.

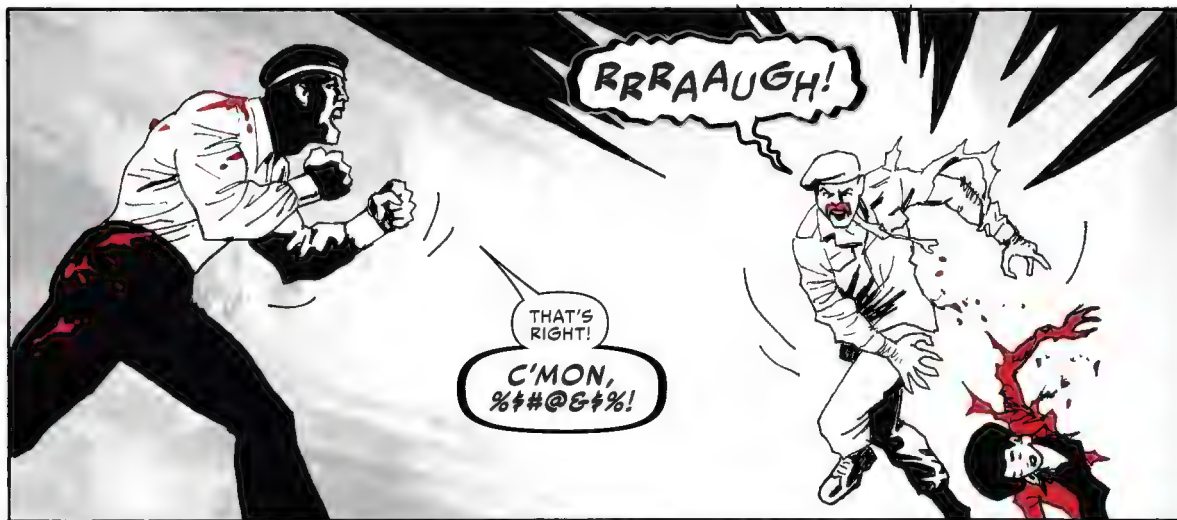


HOW
LONG I BEEN
OUT?

ACCESSING
SECURITY
FILES.

PROCESSING.

TWENTY-EIGHT
MINUTES AND
TWELVE
SECONDS.







THE BUNKER WAS THE FIRST THING DADDY INSTALLED.

"A MAN WHO KNOWS WHEN TO RETREAT WILL LIVE TO RULE WHAT REMAINS, DARLING."

VNNNNNNNNNN!

2002



NGH!

STAY WITH ME, MAMA! C'MON NOW! I WAS PAID TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND I'M GONNA FINISH THAT JOB.

A MAN AIN'T NOTHING WITHOUT HIS WORD.



RETINAL SCAN REQUIRED.

ONCE YOU'RE LOCKED TIGHT IN THIS BUNKER, I'M GON' GO OUT AND SEE WHAT I CAN SEE.

AREN'T A LOT OF MEN BUILT LIKE ME OUT THERE, BUT I KNOW A FEW. TOGETHER, MAYBE WE CAN PUT A STOP TO THIS--OR AT LEAST GET AS MANY AS WE CAN SOMEWHERE SAFE.



SCAN INCONCLUSIVE. RECALIBRATING FILES.

DADDY, PLEASE!



ALEXANDRIA VON STRUCKER, YOUR FORM HAS BEEN COMPROMISED.

ENTRY DENIED.

EEFUTTH!



WOMAN,
ARE YOU...



...CRAZY?!



DID YOU
THINK I WOULD
LET YOU RULE THIS
ACCURSED WORLD?
I, A VON
STRUCKER?!

A WORLD IN
WHICH YOU ARE
ITS SAVIOR IS NO
WORLD WORTH
CLAIMING!

I COULD
NOT BEAR TO BE
A PART OF IT. NOT
AS THIS. IT WILL DIE
WITH ME. WITH THE
INFECTION.
WITH
US.



I KNOW
YOU FEEL THE
HUNGER. YOU THINK
YOURSELF TOO NOBLE
TO FEED UPON ME? TOO
PROUD TO PROVE
YOURSELF A MAN
OF NO WORD?



ALLOW ME
TO DISABUSE YOU
OF THAT NOTION, CAGE.
THOSE OF YOUR KIND
HAVE BEEN TOOLS.
PLAYTHINGS, BUT
NEVER MEN.

AND NOW--
HRCK--YOU
ARE MERELY A
MONSTER.







A full-page comic book illustration showing Blade, a man with a mustache and sunglasses, wearing a black trench coat and combat boots with claw-like attachments. He is in a dynamic pose, holding two swords aloft. He is surrounded by zombie versions of the Fantastic Four. One zombie, Mr. Fantastic, is in the foreground, his body stretched out and his head screaming in pain. Blood is splashing on the ground. In the background, other zombie limbs and heads are visible.

THE ZOMBIE PLAGUE HAS TAKEN OVER THE WORLD AND EVERY SUPERHUMAN IN IT. THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SAFE PLACE LEFT ANYWHERE ON EARTH...EXCEPT ONE.

THE ROAD THERE IS PAVED WITH SUPER-GHOULS. SO NOW I GOTTA DEAL WITH ZOMBIE MR. FANTASTIC.

MORE LIKE MR. SO-SO.

BLADE in

"STRANGE-ASS BEDFELLOWS"



I AIN'T BEIN' FAIR--HE'S NOT HIMSELF.

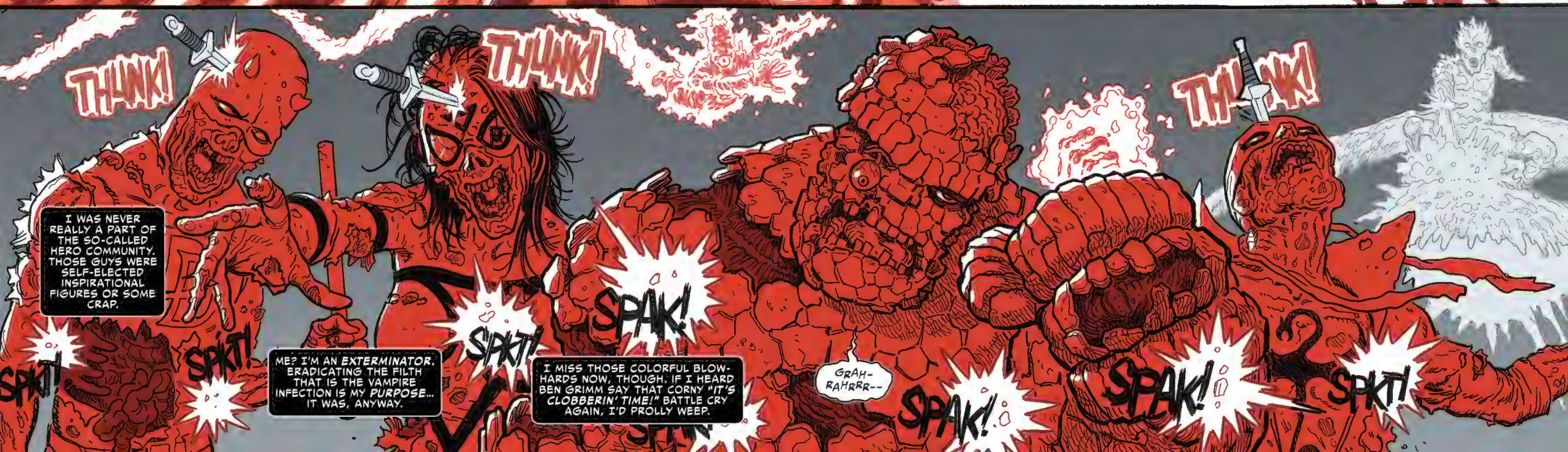
NONE OF THEM ARE OR WILL BE AGAIN, SO MAYBE I GOT A SHOT.

RIGHT COMBO OF BITERS CAN TAKE DOWN ANYBODY. I AIN'T HEARD ABOUT ANY OTHER LIVIN' HEROES ANYWHERE. AIN'T NO WORK BEIN' DONE OUT THERE EXCEPT BY ME AND MY GUY.

COULD I BE THE LAST ONE FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT?

I RELEASE YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

BRRRR!
BRRRR!
BRRRR!



THANK!

THANK!

THANK!

I WAS NEVER REALLY A PART OF THE SO-CALLED HERO COMMUNITY. THOSE GUYS WERE SELF-ELECTED INSPIRATIONAL FIGURES OR SOME CRAP.

ME? I'M AN EXTERMINATOR. ERADICATING THE FILTH THAT IS THE VAMPIRE INFECTION IS MY PURPOSE... IT WAS, ANYWAY.

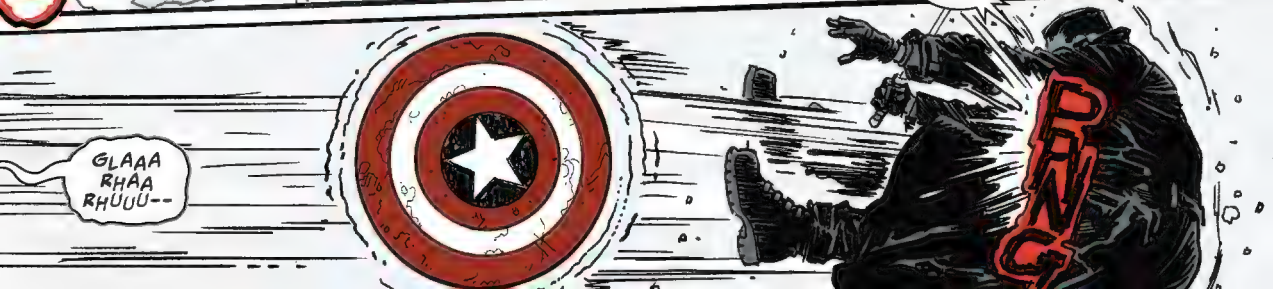
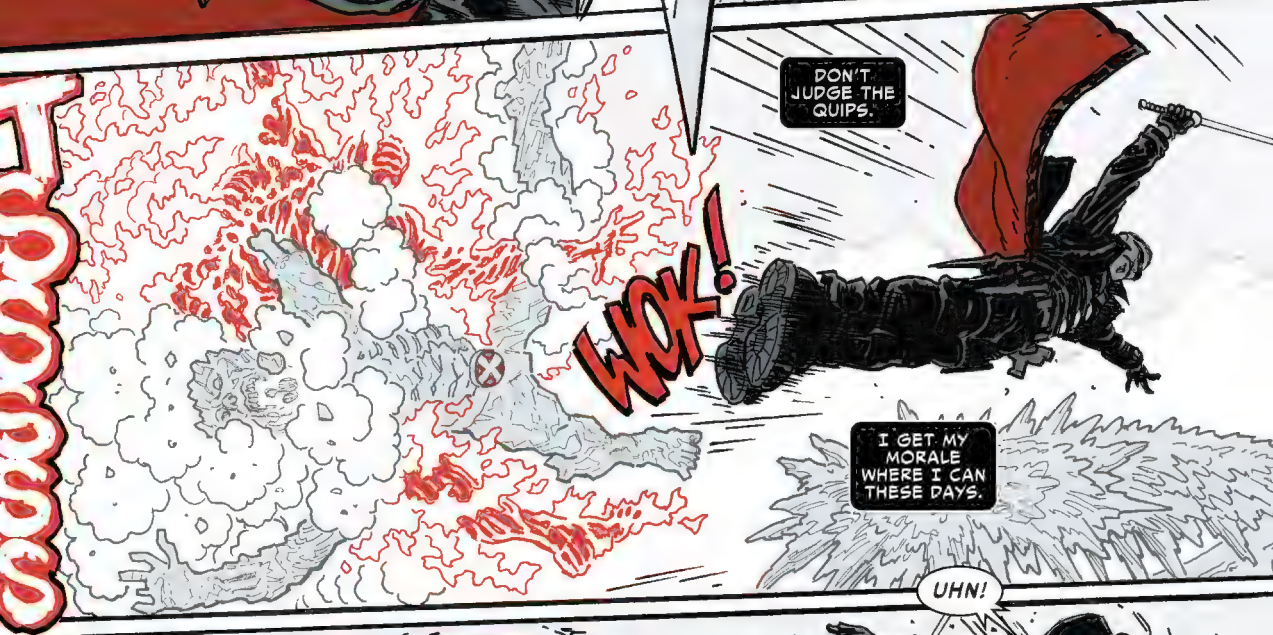
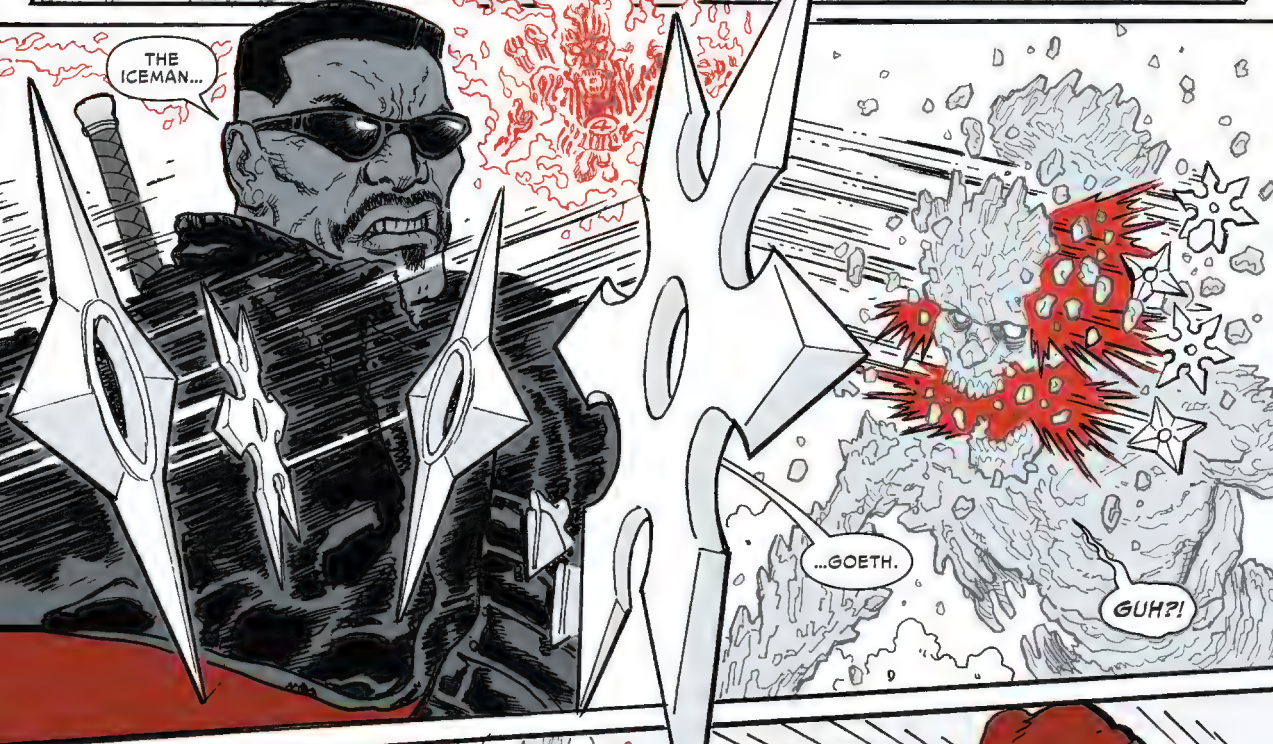
I MISS THOSE COLORFUL BLOW-HARDS NOW, THOUGH. IF I HEARD BEN GRIMM SAY THAT CORNY "IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!" BATTLE CRY AGAIN, I'D PROLLY WEEP.

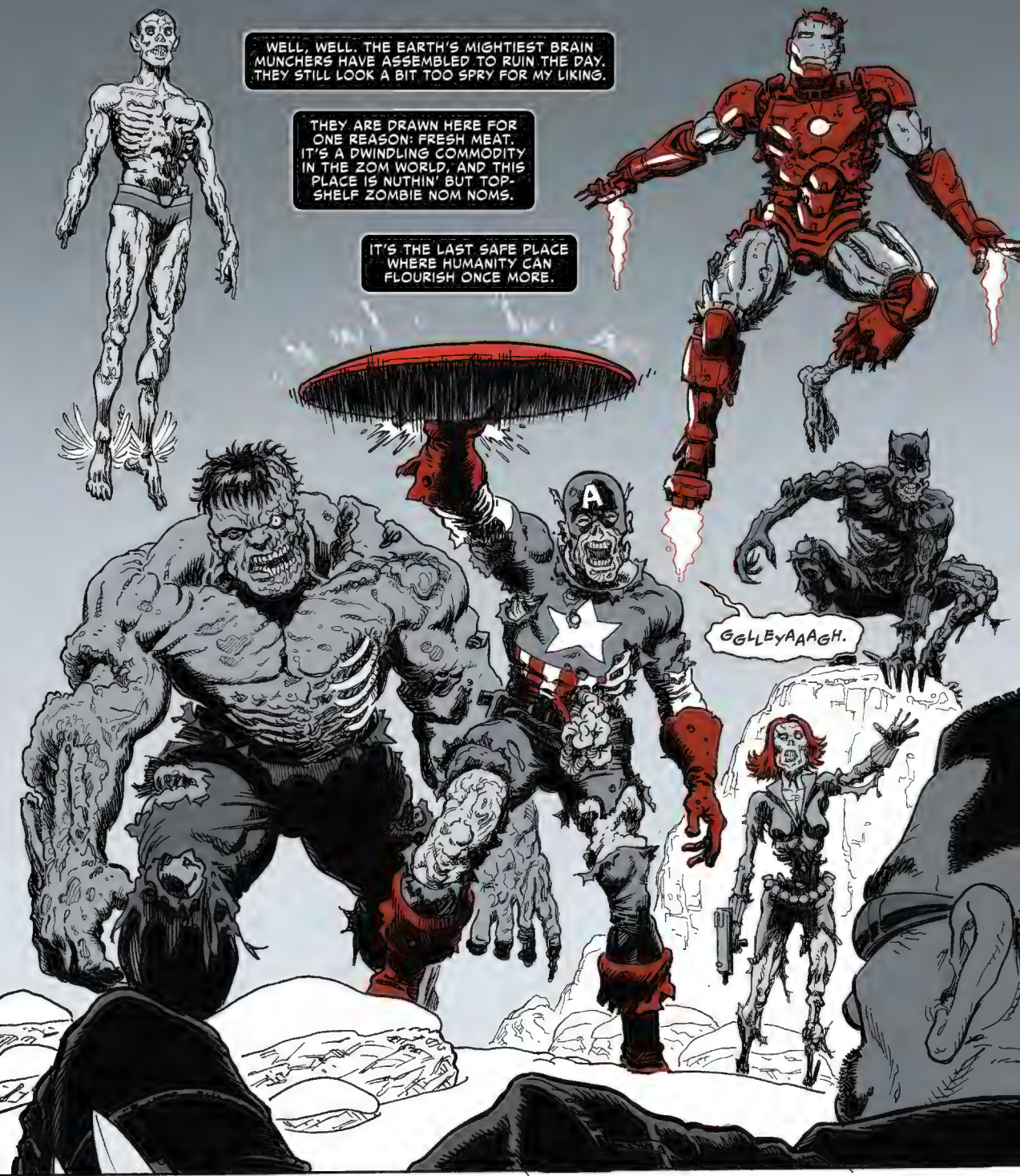
GRAH-RAHRR--

SPAK!

SPAK!

SPAK!





WELL, WELL. THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST BRAIN MUNCHERS HAVE ASSEMBLED TO RUIN THE DAY. THEY STILL LOOK A BIT TOO SPRY FOR MY LIKING.

THEY ARE DRAWN HERE FOR ONE REASON: FRESH MEAT. IT'S A DWINDLING COMMODITY IN THE ZOM WORLD, AND THIS PLACE IS NUTHIN' BUT TOP-SHELF ZOMBIE NOM NOMS.

IT'S THE LAST SAFE PLACE WHERE HUMANITY CAN FLOURISH ONCE MORE.

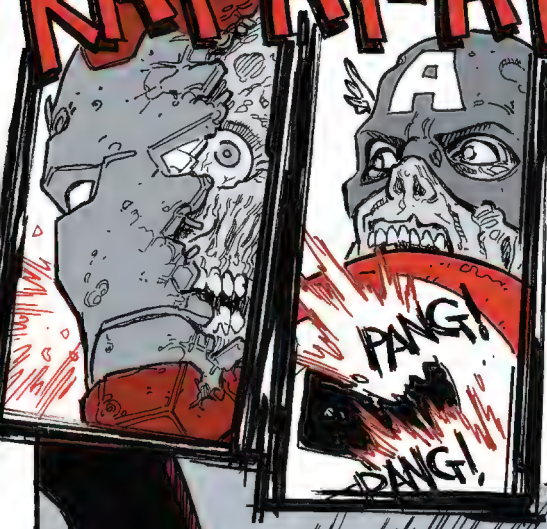
GGLBYAAAGH.



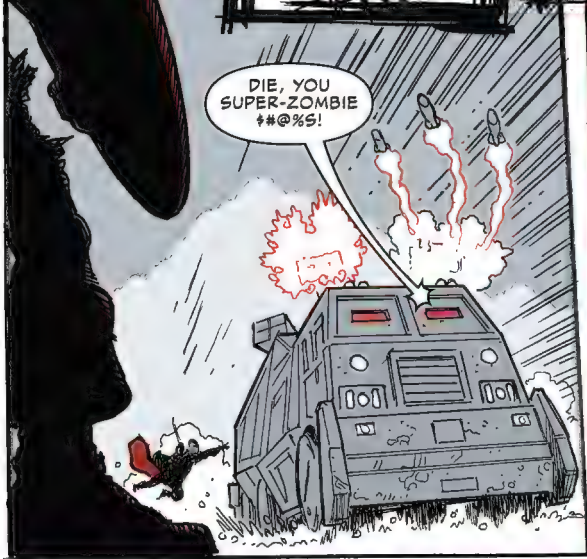
THEY CALL IT THE SANCTUARY, AND NOTHING CAN GET THROUGH ITS FORCE-FIELDS, NOT EVEN THESE SUPER-GUTS-GOBLERS.

THE WHOLE PLACE IS SELF-SUFFICIENT EXCEPT FOR ONE THING...FOOD FOR ITS RULING CLASS.

RAT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-AT-



THAT'S WHERE ME AND MY
CRAZY SIDEKICK COME IN.
WE PROVIDE SEED FOR THE
FOREVER-HUNGERING SOIL.

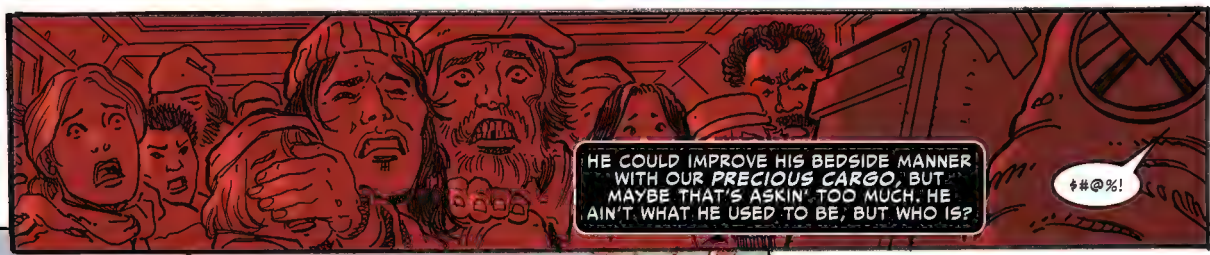


DIE, YOU
SUPER-ZOMBIE
##@%\$!



YOU
RUINED MY
LIFE!

RICK JONES HAS
SEEN IT ALL.
PROBABLY TOO
MUCH. DEFINITELY
TOO MUCH.



HE COULD IMPROVE HIS BEDSIDE MANNER
WITH OUR PRECIOUS CARGO, BUT
MAYBE THAT'S ASKIN' TOO MUCH. HE
AIN'T WHAT HE USED TO BE, BUT WHO IS?

##@%\$!



HE'S MY FIRST REAL SIDEKICK,
AND I'M ABOUT HIS SLOPPY
NINETEENTHS, HERO-WISE.



C'MON,
C'MON, WE
AIN'T COME
THIS FAR FOR
NUTHIN'!



<GAAA LARRRR-->*

*TRANSLATED FROM ZOMBIE FOR "CLASSIC TONY QUIP."



##@%! LOSING CONTROL!

THIS RUN IS GOING SIDEWAYS...

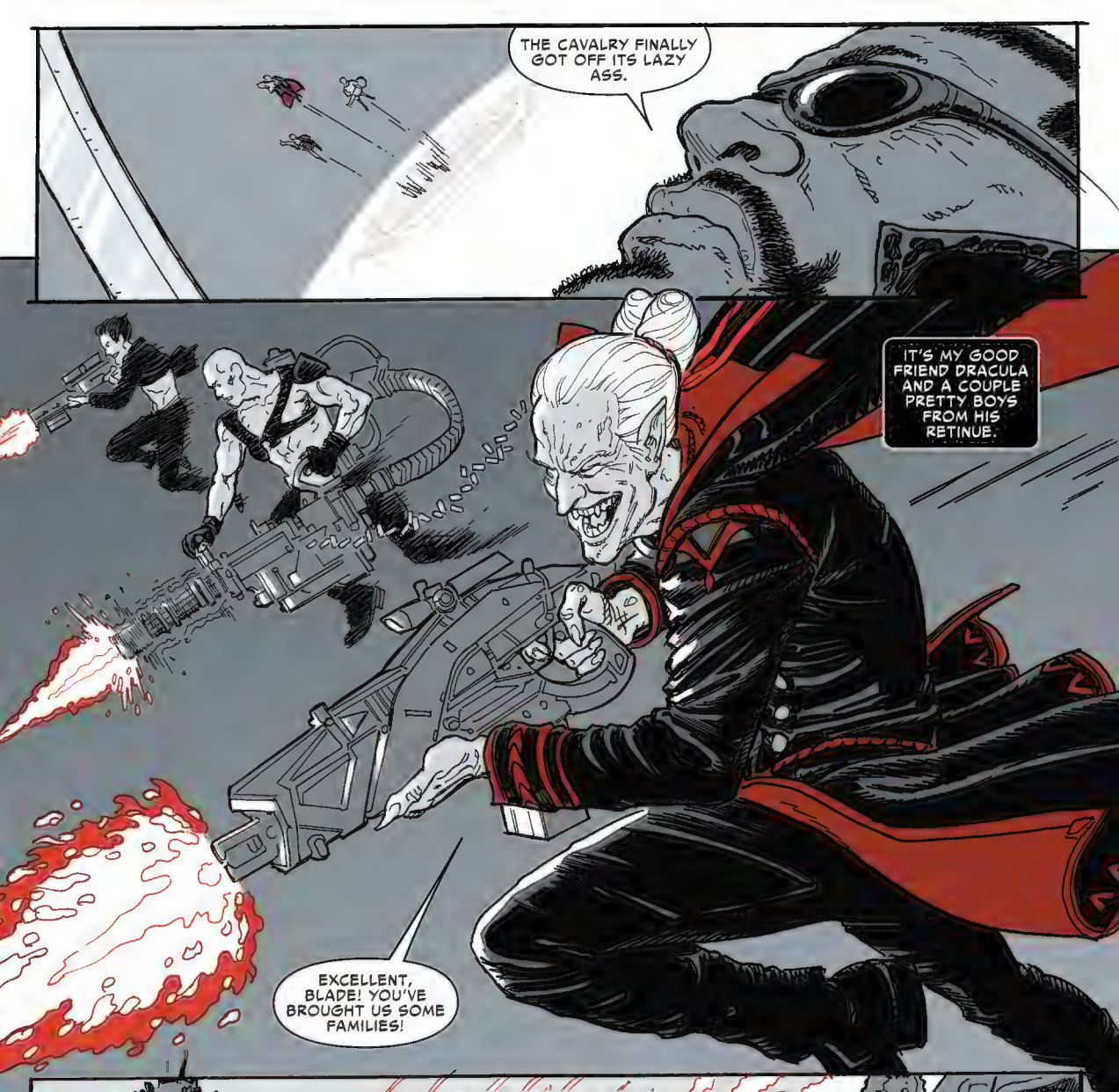


IT'S THE END OF THE LINE.

GO! GO!



NOT. GONNA ENJOY SEEIN' RICK GET EATEN ALIVE BY HIS OLD BUDDIES. THAT ##@% AIN'T RIGHT.



THE CAVALRY FINALLY
GOT OFF ITS LAZY
ASS.

IT'S MY GOOD
FRIEND DRACULA
AND A COUPLE
PRETTY BOYS
FROM HIS
RETINUE.

EXCELLENT,
BLADE! YOU'VE
BROUGHT US SOME
FAMILIES!



ZOMBIE WORLD MAKES
FOR SOME STRANGE-
ASS BEDFELLOWS.



I'VE GOT
SOMETHING FROM
YOUR CREATIVE PERIOD,
TONY! YOU ZOMBIE
##@%!

I'LL MISS YOUR
EFFERVESCENT
PERSONALITY,
RICK.

HUMANITY'S
LAST UTOPIAN
REFUGE HAS
A CATCH.

IT'S RUN AND
CONTROLLED BY
THE VAMPIRE
NATION.

BOOM!

IT WAS A
HERO'S DEATH,
BLADE. YOUR FRIEND
HONORED HIMSELF,
SO DON'T LOOK
SO SAD.

COME, JOIN
IN THE REVELS.
DON'T FORGET
LIFE IS FOR THE
LIVING...AND THE
IMMORTAL.

THE VAMPS DO IT UP NICE
HERE. IT'S A REAL BIG SLICE
OF THE GONE WORLD.

WELCOME,
WELCOME,
EVERYONE!

KNOW THAT
YOU ARE SAFE
AND THAT YOU
ARE HOME...

...THE
FUTURE,
ONCE AGAIN,
BELONGS TO
YOU, TO US
ALL.

THEY GOT
SMILING
FACES AND
COMFORTING
WORDS.

THEY'LL PATCH YOU UP
GOOD AND GET YOU
NICE 'N' HEALTHY.

THEY GOT ALL THE LONG-LOST AMENITIES AT YOUR
FINGERTIPS. YOU CAN MANAGE ALL THAT ZOMBIE-
WORLD TRAUMA WITH A BUILT-IN BENZODIAZEPINE
DISPENSER AND A NICE BUBBLE BATH.

THE
PRICE?

ONLY YOUR
IMMORTAL
SOUL.

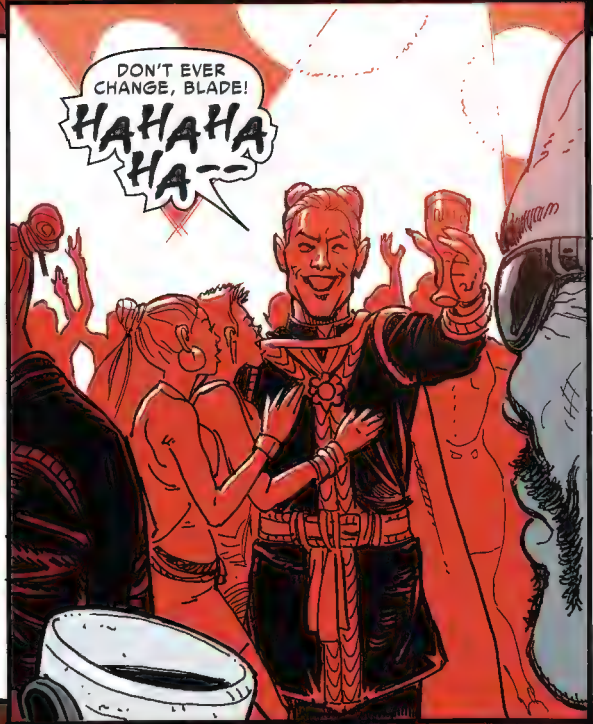


THEIR PROTECTION IS CONTINGENT UPON
YOU BECOMING THEIR BLOOD COW FOR LIFE.
HUMANITY IS BEING SAVED TO BECOME
NOTHING MORE THAN PAMPERED SLAVES.

I HATE IT, AND I
HELP ENABLE ALL OF
IT. I JUST DON'T SEE
ANY OTHER WAY.



SO I MUST SULLY
MYSELF FOR THE
GREATER GOOD. I
MUST SURVIVE AND
BE PATIENT.



DON'T EVER
CHANGE, BLADE!

HAHAHA
HA--



BECAUSE ONE DAY, THE ZOMBIE
MENACE WILL BE EXTINGUISHED,
AND THE ROSE OF HUMANKIND
WILL BLOOM ONCE MORE. THEN...

THEN, I'M GOING
TO KILL EVERY LAST
ONE OF THESE
BLOODSUCKIN',
%*#@#%*#@%\$#
VAMPIRES IN THIS
RATHOLE.

CHEERS.



THE END.

WAR IS
WAR.



...BUT THE
KILLING
STAYS THE
SAME.

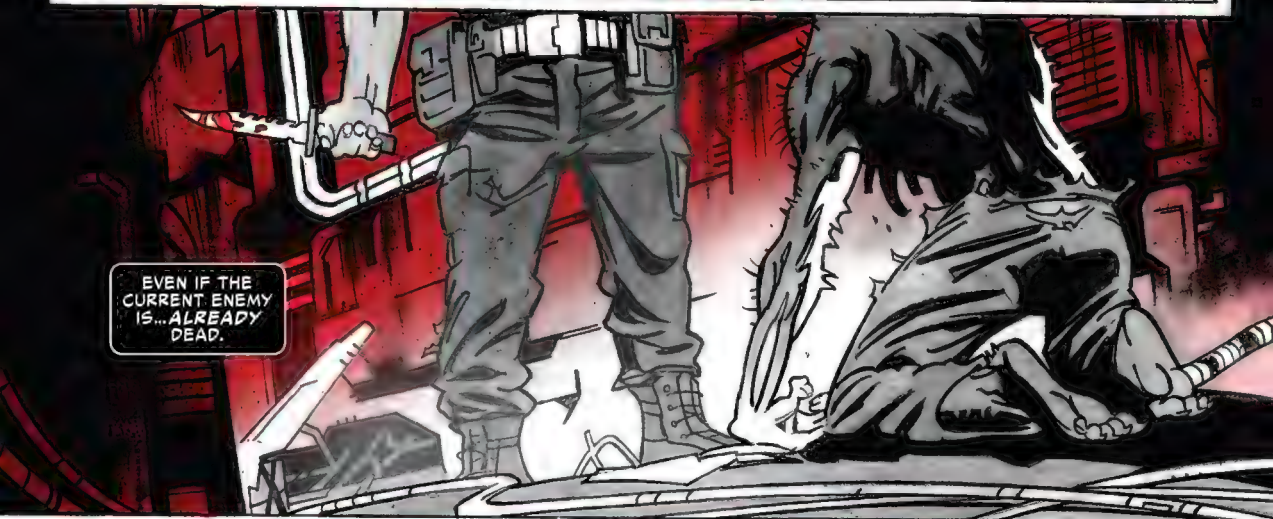


AND IF
THERE'S ONE
THING I'M
GOOD AT...





...IT'S
KILLING.



EVEN IF THE
CURRENT ENEMY
IS...ALREADY
DEAD.



BUT THIS WAR
WAS LOST BEFORE
IT EVER BEGAN.



THE ONLY THING THAT
SPREAD FASTER THAN
THE ZOMBIE VIRUS WAS
THE RUMORS ABOUT IT.



REPORTS BLAMED
RUSSIA, CHINA...EVEN
OUTER SPACE.



IN THE END, IT
DOESN'T MATTER
WHO OR WHAT
CAUSED IT...

HRSSSSS!



...BECAUSE NO
ONE STOOD A
CHANCE.

HRRRRN!

%#@.



DEET
DEET

COME ON,
YOU PIECE OF
#@%...COME
ON...



%#@.

HRRRRN!

DEEEET



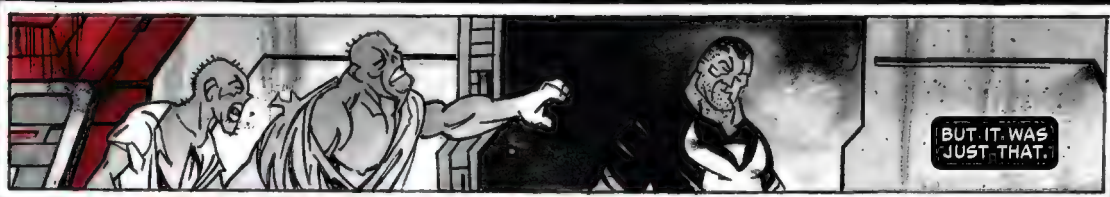
KRAK



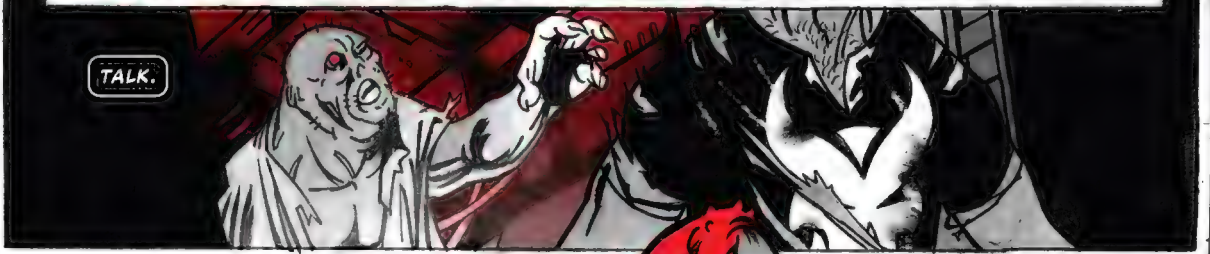
DEET

THERE WERE, OF
COURSE, SOME
WHO TRIED TO
GIVE HUMANKIND
A FIGHTING
CHANCE...

...TALK OF A CURE OR
A VACCINE...HOPE
FOR THE FUTURE.



BUT IT WAS
JUST THAT.



TALK.

ARGHN!



DEET



SCHLK

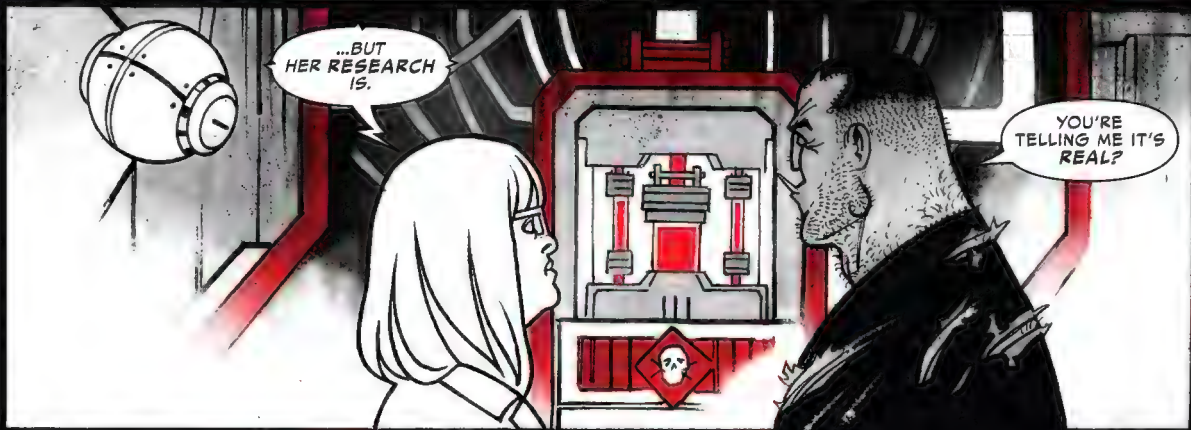
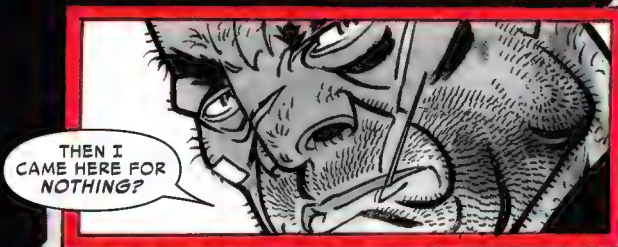
OR SO I
THOUGHT.



HRN.

WELCOME...







DOCTOR STONE'S MESSAGE SAID SHE FOUND A WAY TO FIX IT...TO GET RID OF THOSE MONSTERS FOR GOOD.

YES, DOCTOR STONE SUCCEEDED IN CREATING A VIRUS THAT COULD SPREAD THROUGH THE ENTIRE POPULATION, KILLING ALL OF THE UNDEAD...



...BUT SHE ALSO CREATED A CURE.



A CURE? YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE TRIED THAT?

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S JUST SITTING RIGHT HERE...IN THAT VIAL?

IT WAS TESTED ON A VERY SMALL SAMPLE SIZE BEFORE THE LAB WAS COMPROMISED, BUT THE TESTS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE.



I'LL PLAY ALONG FOR A MOMENT.

SO, ASSUMING THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T COMPLETE AND UTTER @#%--WHICH IT ABSOLUTELY IS-- THEN THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS...

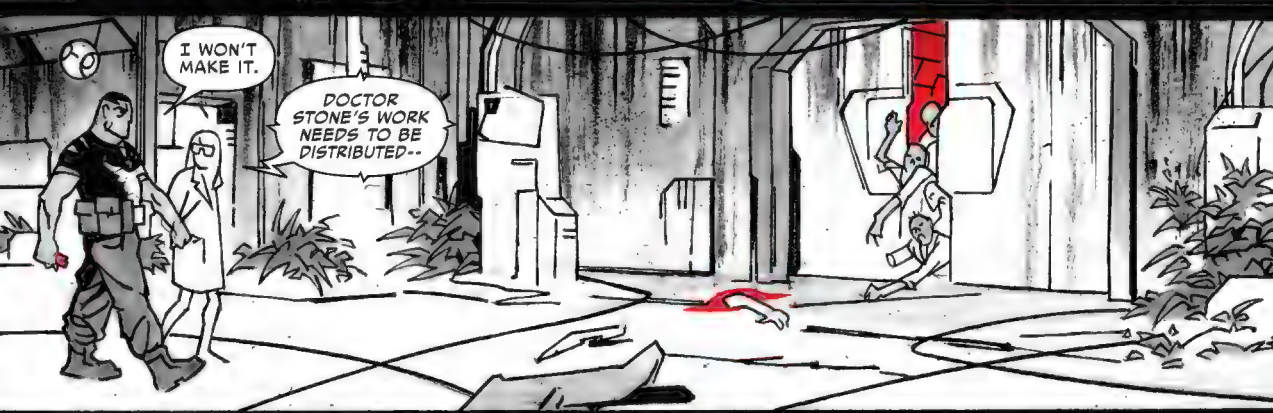
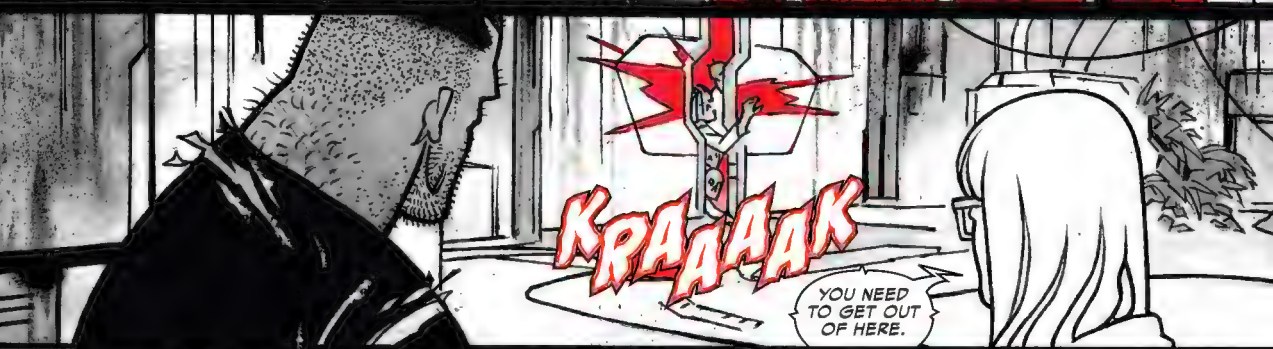
...SPREAD A VIRUS CREATED SPECIFICALLY TO WIPE OUT THE DAMNED ZOMBIES, OR TAKE A CHANCE ON A CURE WITH NO MORE EVIDENCE THAN AN ARTIFICIAL RE-CREATION OF DOCTOR MIRIAM STONE TELLING ME IT'S GOOD.



I THINK I'LL KILL 'EM.

OF COURSE. THAT IS WHAT YOU WOULD DO, PUNISHER.





...BUT I AM
A SOLDIER.

HRRERAGH!

MAYBE I'M THE
LAST CASUALTY IN
THE LAST WAR.

OR MAYBE I'M
THE SACRIFICE
THAT FINALLY
WINS IT.

GOODBYE,
FRANK.

THE END.

"SHANNA OF THE DEAD"



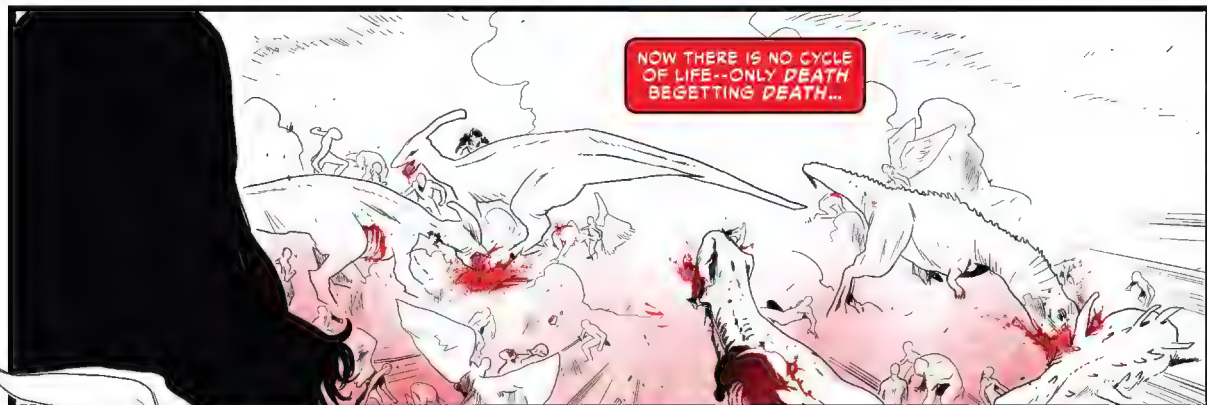
IT TOOK ONLY THREE MONTHS FOR THE ZOMBIE VIRUS THAT QUICKSILVER BROUGHT TO THE SAVAGE LAND TO SPREAD

ITS MINDLESS VIOLENCE AND CARNAGE INFESTED EVERY DARK JUNGLE CORNER, EVERY ISLAND, EVERY MIST-SHROUDED MOUNTAINTOP...

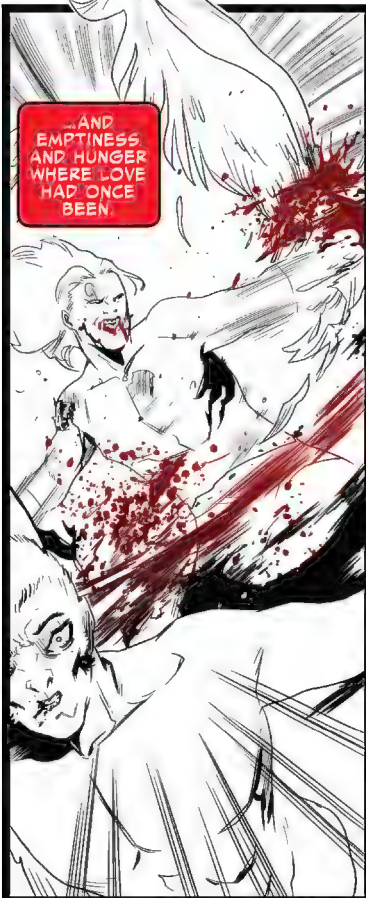
...AND INTRODUCED
A VICIOUS CRUELTY--
EXTREME EVEN TO
THOSE OF US WHO
MANAGED TO
SURVIVE HERE.



NOW THERE IS NO CYCLE
OF LIFE--ONLY DEATH
BEGETTING DEATH...



...AND
EMPTINESS
AND HUNGER
WHERE LOVE
HAD ONCE
BEEN.



IT HAD ONLY BEEN
A SMALL BITE FROM
A RAPTOR--A GRAZE
OF TINY TEETH THAT
BROKE THE SKIN--THAT
TOOK KA-ZAR AWAY
FROM ME.

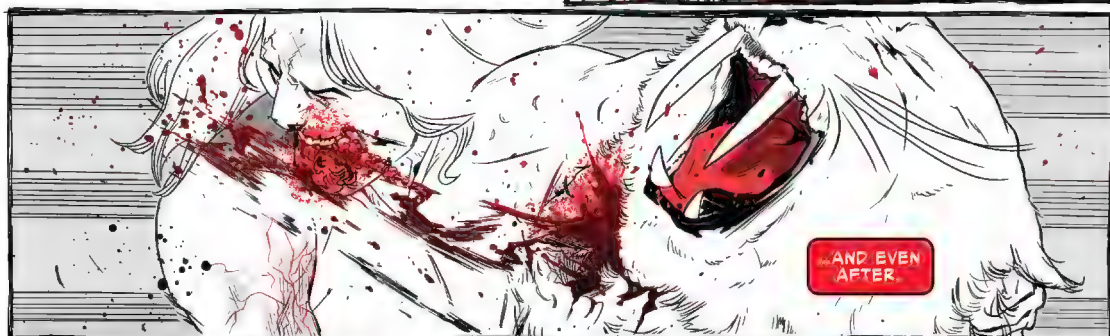
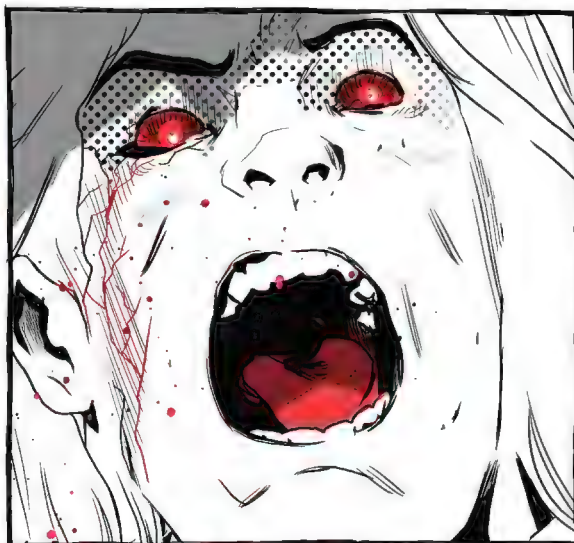
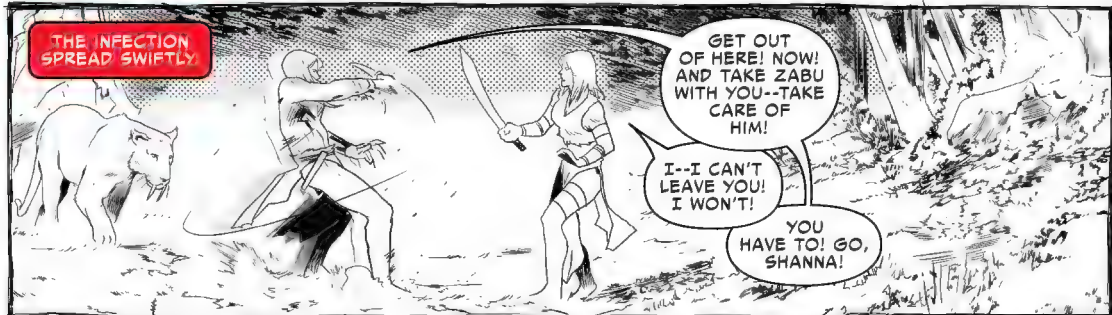


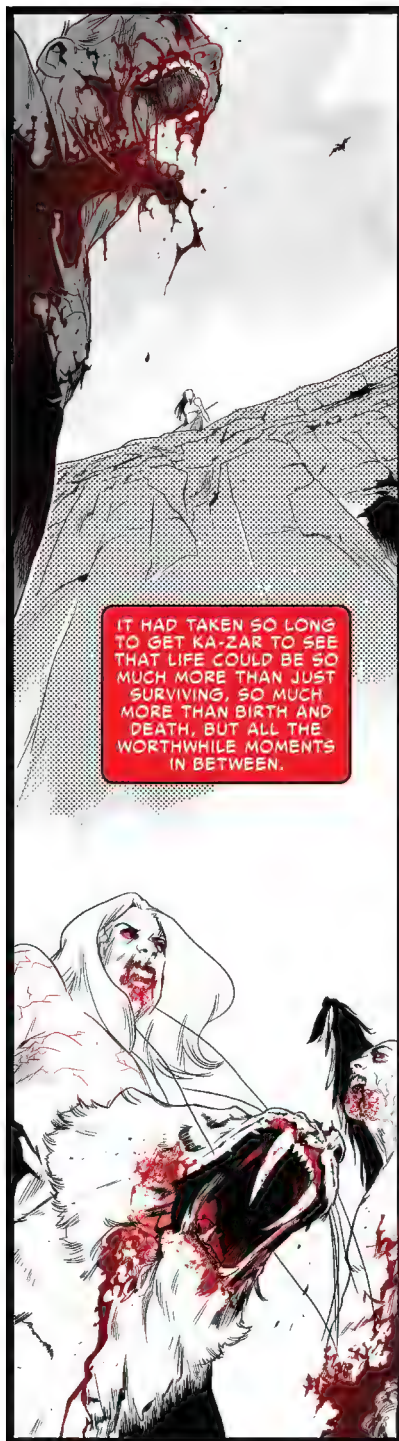
THE INFECTION--
IT'S STILL EARLY!
WE CAN STOP IT AT
YOUR CALF--

NO, SHANNA,
IT'S TOO LATE.
I CAN FEEL IT
MOVING FAST.

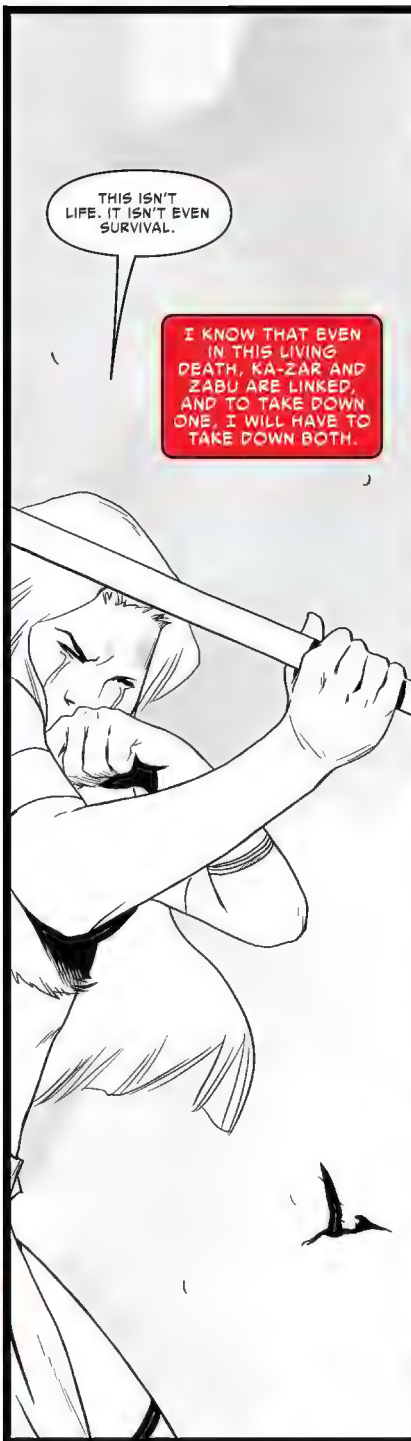
...TOO
FAST.







IT HAD TAKEN SO LONG TO GET KA-ZAR TO SEE THAT LIFE COULD BE SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST SURVIVING, SO MUCH MORE THAN BIRTH AND DEATH, BUT ALL THE WORTHWHILE MOMENTS IN BETWEEN.

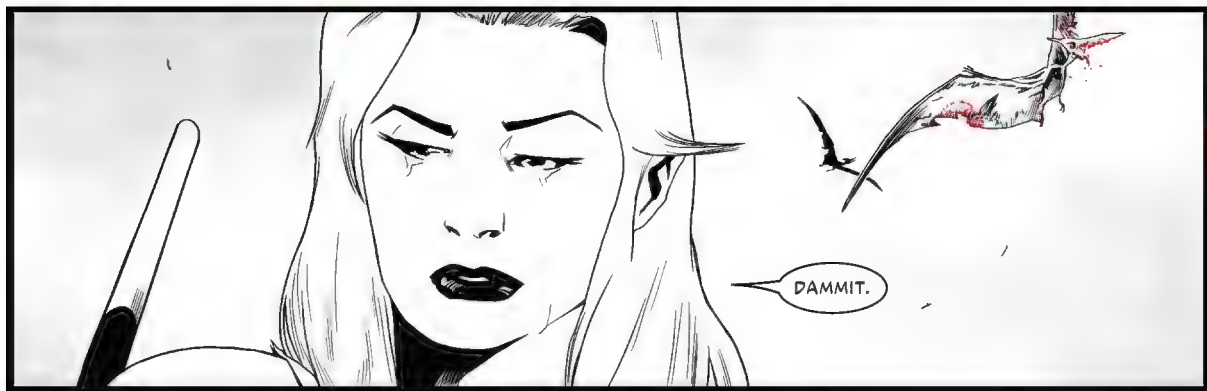


THIS ISN'T LIFE. IT ISN'T EVEN SURVIVAL.

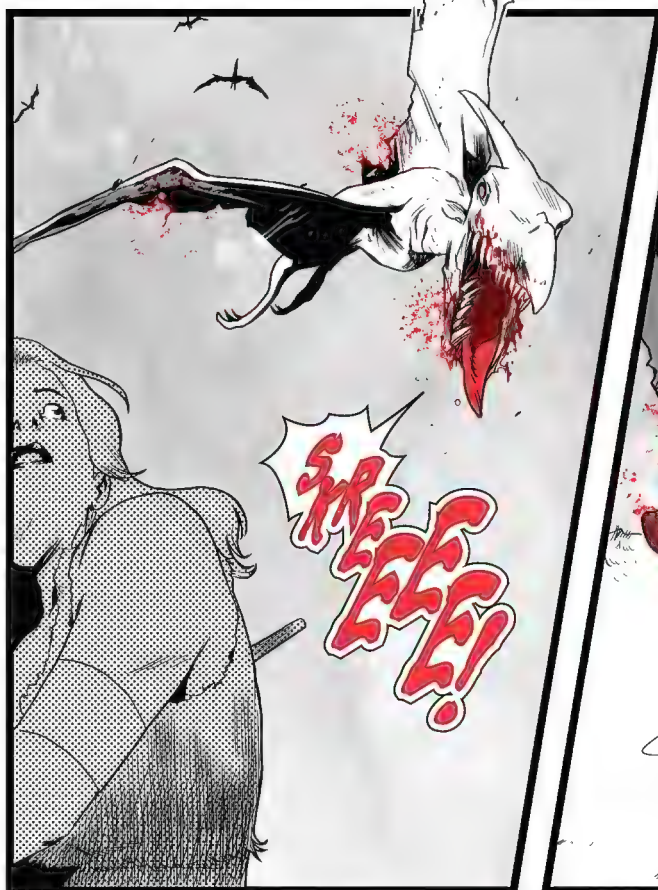
I KNOW THAT EVEN IN THIS LIVING DEATH, KA-ZAR AND ZABU ARE LINKED, AND TO TAKE DOWN ONE, I WILL HAVE TO TAKE DOWN BOTH.



COME ON...



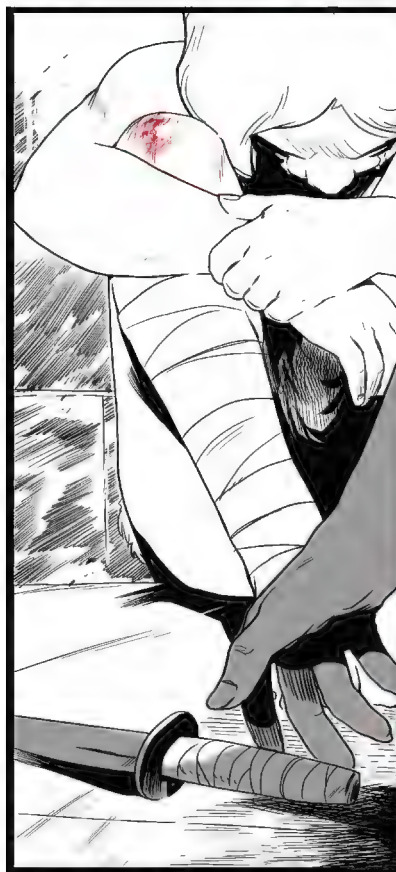
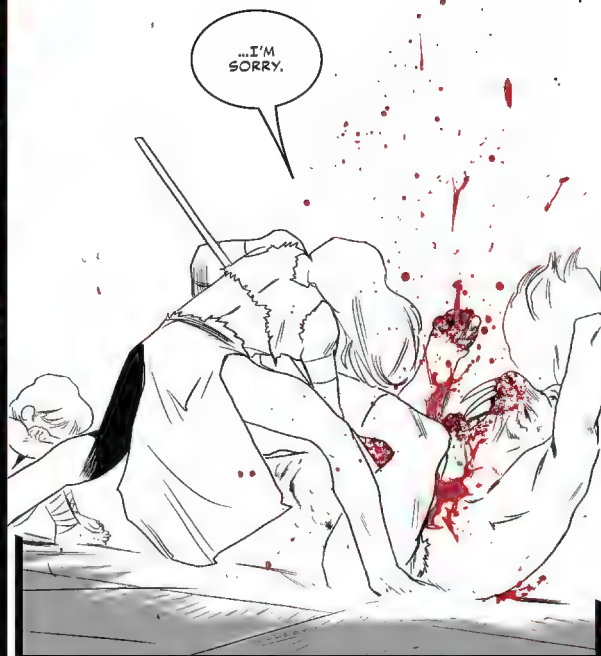
DAMMIT.

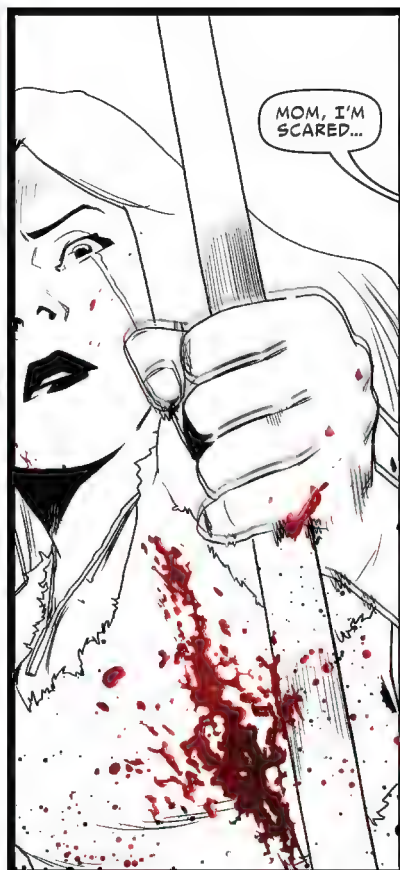














#1 VARIANT BY Leinil Francis Yu • Sunny Gho



#1 VARIANT BY Rafael Albuquerque

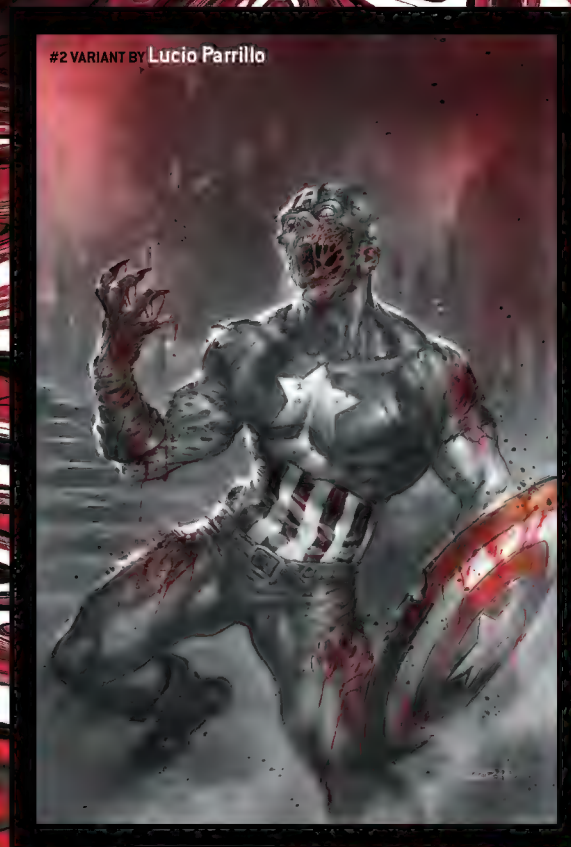


#1 HOMAGE VARIANT BY Carlos Magno • Chris Sotomayor

#1 UNEARTHED VARIANT BY Mike Deodato Jr. & Rachelle Rosenberg



#2 VARIANT BY Lucio Parrillo



#2 HOMAGE VARIANT BY Cory Smith & Alex Sinclair



#2 UNEARTHED VARIANT BY Greg Land, Jay Leisten, Rachelle Rosenberg



#3 VARIANT BY Alex Horley



#3 HOMAGE VARIANT BY Todd Nauck ■ Rachelle Rosenberg

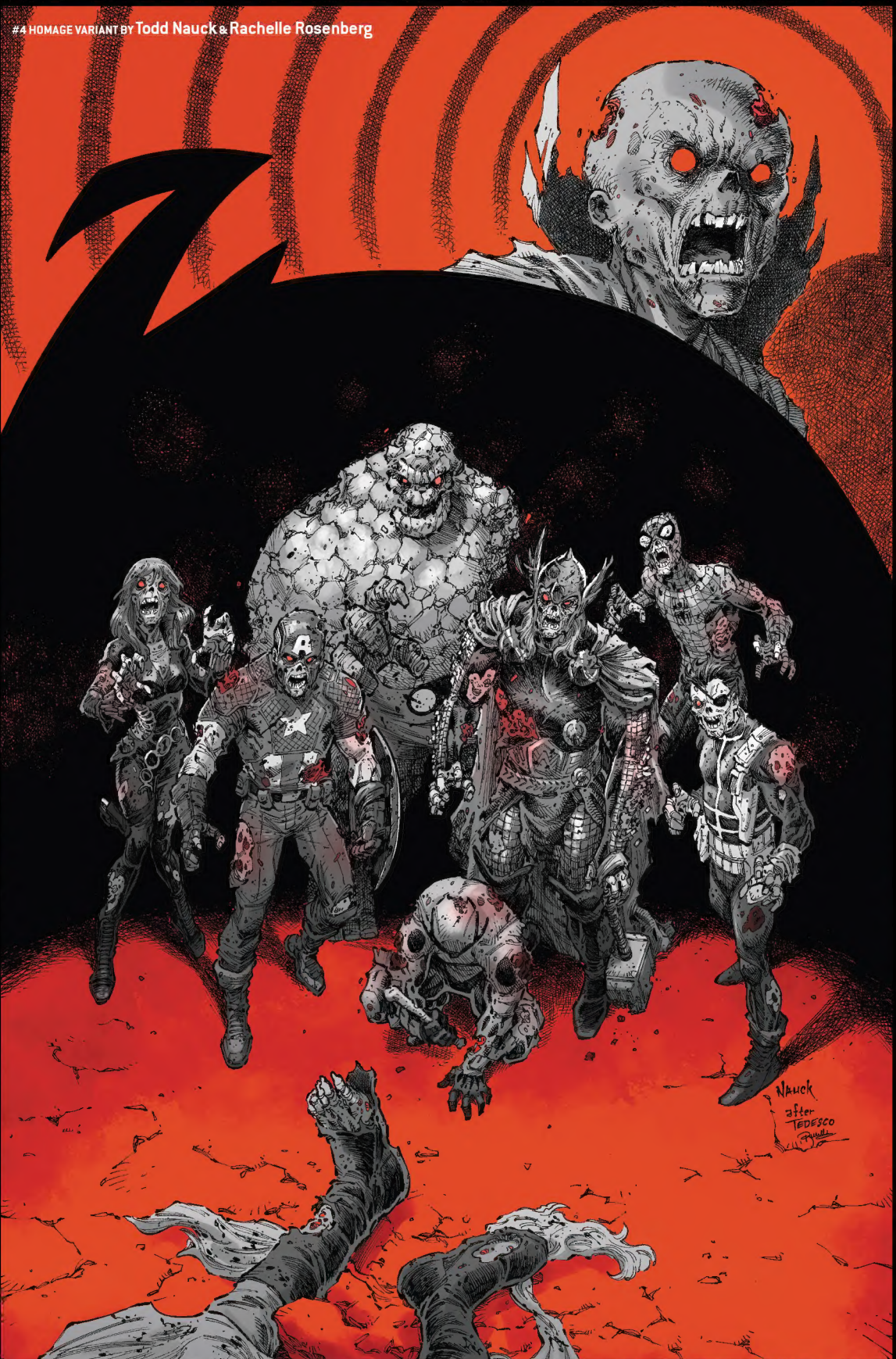


#3 UNEARTHED VARIANT BY Ed McGuinness & Rachelle Rosenberg



#4 VARIANT BY Joshua Cassara





Nauck
after
TEDESCO
Rosenberg



KAMIC RIDER

MARIKA